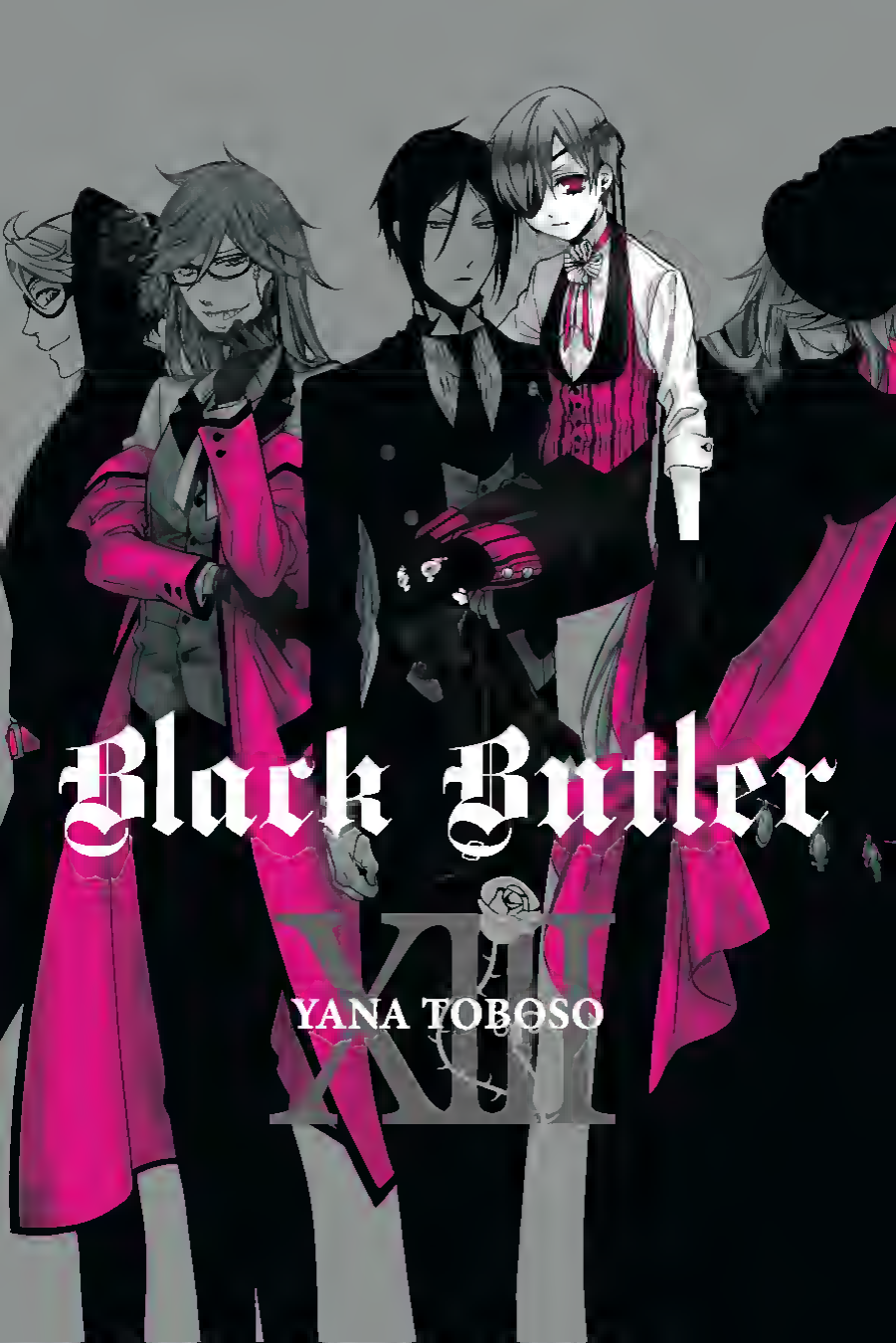
Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XII


Black Butler
XII
YANA TOBOSO

Contents

Chapter 58

In the morning ... 3

The Butler, Knifehand

Chapter 59

At noon 37

The Butler, Compromising

Chapter 60

In the afternoon .. 73

The Butler, Shaken

Chapter 61

At night 103

The Butler, Born

Chapter 62

At midnight 133

The Butler, Maturing

Chapter 58

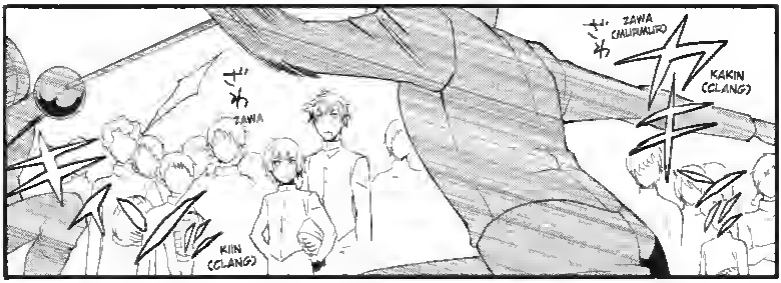
In the morning : The Butler, Knifehand

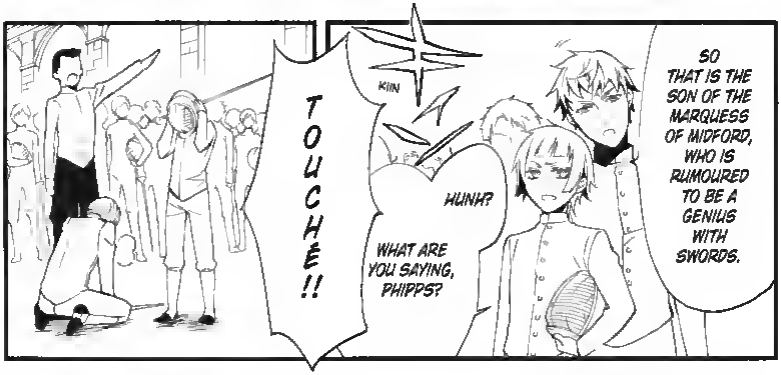
What are
little girls made of?
"Sugar and spice,
and all that's nice;
And that's what little
girls are made of."

A LADY...
...SHOULD ALWAYS BE DELICATE AND LOVELY BEFORE A GENTLEMAN...
...AN INNOCENT GIRL FIRST AND FOREMOST.
HER JOB IS TO BE SURROUNDED BY ALL THINGS NICE LIKE MOTHER GOOSE'S NURSERY RHYME SAYS AND KEEP SMILING.
...STAY LIKE THAT FOR AS LONG AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
SO...

I WILL!
Poetry over philosophy.
Embroidery over cooking.
Dancing over chess.
Be an angel who knows nothing.
That is how girls born into a nation of roses are raised.

I STOOD APART FROM OTHER GIRLS IN ONE RESPECT.

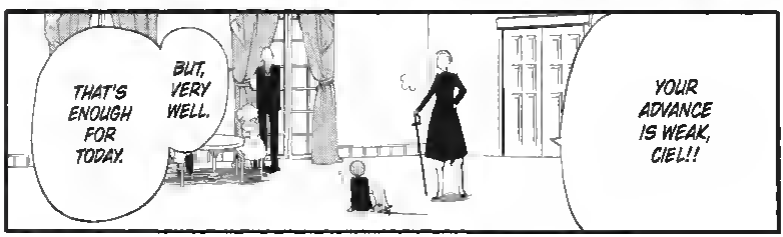

ZAWA
KIIN (CLANG)
ZAWA CHURUMURU
KAKIN (CLANG)


SO THAT IS THE SON OF THE MARQUESS OF MIDFORD, WHO IS RUMOURED TO BE A GENIUS WITH SWORDS.
KIIN
HUNH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PHIPPS?
TOUCHÉ!!

THE GENIUS IS THE DAUGHTER.

ZAWA

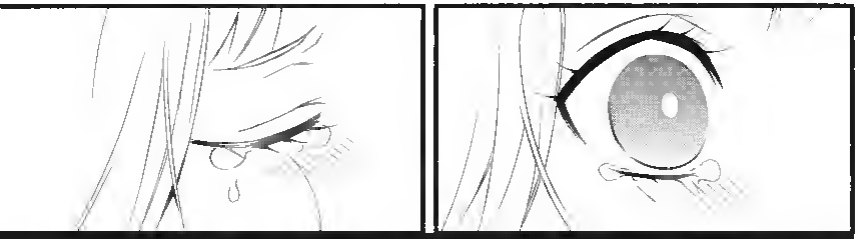
WHAT I DANCED AT VARIOUS HALLS WAS NOT THE WALTZ.



DOKI
UGGGH... SHE WAS SCARY...
MOTHER'S VERY STRICT!
AUNT FRANCIS IS A BEAUTIFUL LADY, BUT...
...IF MY WIFE WAS THAT STRONG...
...I THINK I WOULD BE FRIGHTENED OF HER.
I'M SO GLAD IT'S YOU WHO'LL BE MY BRIDE, LIZZIE!
MY DEAR, ADORABLE FIANCÉ, YOUNGER THAN ME BY A YEAR.
THAT'S WHEN I MADE A VOW.

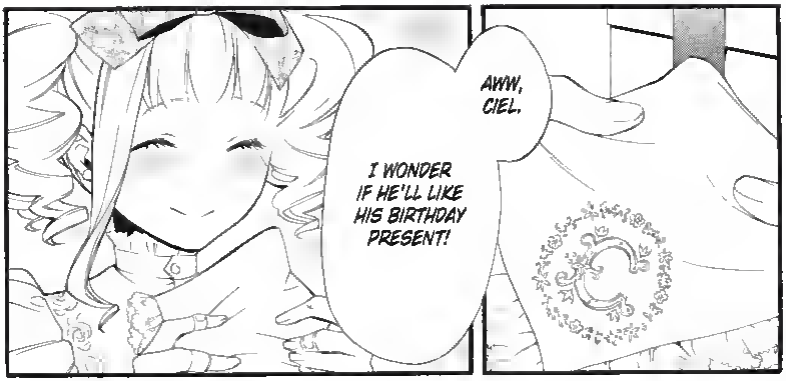
I would become a bride Ciel could protect.
YOU ARE A GIRL WHO IS TO MARRY INTO THE HOUSE OF PHANTOMHIVE.
YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO NEGLECT YOUR TRAINING!
PAN (SLAP)
NO!!
NO! I SAID, NO!

EVEN IF YOU DO FIND IT TRYING, IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE, AND HIS...
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
GYU (HUG)
I WON'T PRACTISE FENCING ANY-MORE!
SWORDS AREN'T CUTE AT ALL!!



BUT THAT DAY...

ADVENT
CALENDER
2
4
5
6
12
14
15
16
17
18
25
19
20
21
22
23
24


AWW, CIEL.
I WONDER IF HE'LL LIKE HIS BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

LADY LIZZIE!
THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY HAS BEEN...

IT WAS MY DREAM TO BECOME A LOVELY WIFE WHO WOULD BE PROTECTED BY CIEL.

BUT THAT DREAM WAS NEVER TO COME TRUE.

MY.. SHE IS QUITE ENERGETIC.
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS LADY ASHLEY HAS HERSELF YET ANOTHER NEW LOVER
GRACIOUS, HOW FRIGHTFUL!
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THEY MUST HAVE RAISED SOMEONE'S IRE, NO?
THE HORRIFIC SLAUGHTER OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY!

...CIEL SUDDENLY RETURNED...

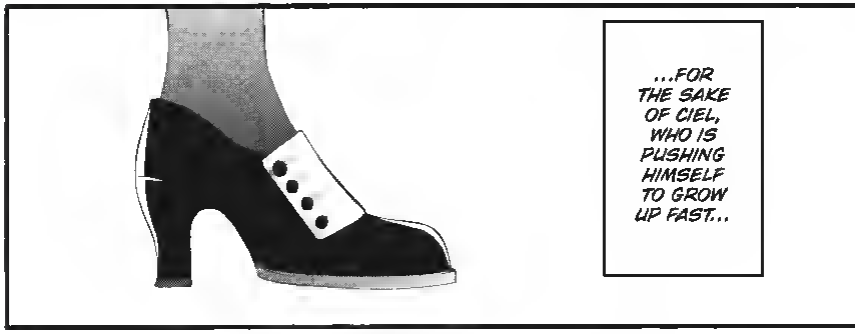
...WITH A BUTLER CLOTHED BLACK AS JET.

BUT I SOON REALISED SOME-THING.
THE CIEL WHO CAME BACK TO ME WAS THINNER AND SMALLER THAN I.
AND SO I MADE A NEW VOW.
CIEL HADN'T BECOME SMALLER. IT WAS I WHO HAD GROWN BIGGER.
I would become a bride who could protect Ciel.

BUT...
I REALLY WOULD RATHER BE CUTE.
I THINK I'LL WEAR THEM TODAY SINCE I'M GOING OUT WITH CIEL!
FATHER BOUGHT THEM FOR ME AS A REWARD FOR WINNING MY FENCING BOUT!
MY, MY! HOW VERY WONDERFUL!
LOOK, PAULA!
AREN'T THESE JUST THE CUTEST!?
OH!

LADY LIZZIE, HAVE YOU GOTTEN A BIT TALLER AGAIN?
EH...?
AH...!
I—! I DO BEG YOUR PARDON!
AH! UM!
YOU ARE STILL LOVELY AND ADORABLE EVEN IF YOU HAVE GROWN, MY LADY!
.....
I WON'T BE WEARING MY NEW SHOES TODAY.
BUT...
LEAVE IT. JUST GET ME A PAIR WITH LOW HEELS, PAULA.

GIRLS MY AGE ALL WEAR CUTE HIGH HEELS, BUT...


...FOR THE SAKE OF CIEL, WHO IS PUSHING HIMSELF TO GROW UP FAST...

...I WEAR MY CHILDISH, LOW-HEELED SHOES AND SMILE BESIDE HIM.

ZAZAA
(SKSKSH)
LOW-HEELED SHOES.
MOTHER'S LESSONS.
SWORDS WITH WHICH TO PROTECT YOU.

THAT...

...IS WHAT I AM MADE OF.

KI
(GLARE)
I'M FINE WITH NOT BEING CUTE...
BÁ
(LUNGE)
...IF IT MEANS I CAN PROTECT YOU!!

TO HAVE FORCED A LADY TO GO TO SUCH LENGTHS AS THESE...
I AM A FAILURE AS A BUTLER.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
MY LADY.
YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH ...
HAAH ...!
SEBAS...
...TIAN?

I SHALL HANDLE THE REST...
SU (SLIP)
ZAAAA (SHAAA)
MMMM, I DO FEEL A BIT LIKE THE WIND WAS TAKEN OUT OF MY SAILS, BUT...
ZAAAA
HA (GASP)
...NO MATTER!
LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, HMM...?
WAIT! SEBAS-TIAN!!
SHTA (FREEZE)
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DEAL WITH THEM RIGHT NOW!
RIAN IS THE ONE WHO HOLDS ALL THE KEYS TO THIS CASE!
WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM!
HUNH?

MISTER SUTCLIFF, LOOK.
NNNN?
RIAN, RIAN..
HEY, YOU.
ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE REANIMATED CORPSES IF WE PUT THE SCREWS ON THIS RIAN CHAP?
IT SEEMS WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PLAY WITH YOU EITHER.
I SEE.
IT DOES SOOOO PAIN ME, BUT I FEAR WE'LL HAVE TO PART HERE FOR NOW, SEBASTIAN DARLING.
SUTO (LAND)

NEXT TIME I'LL BE SURE TO WRAP YOU ALL UP IN ROSY RED! COUNT! ON! IT! ♡
NCHU (SMOOCH)
TOODLES! ♡
HIRARI (FLAP)
YOUR LEG IS QUITE SWOLLEN.
OH NO!
WE SHOULD HURRY TOO—
UGH!
ZUKI (THROB)
YOUNG MASTER!
I'LL CARRY YOU ON MY BACK!
GAN (SHOCK)
WHA—!?
LADY ELIZABETH, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT...
I TRULY CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DO SUCH A THING...
AH!
OH, YES! OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT! OH, DEAR, WHAT HAS COME OVER ME!?
I...

BUWA (TEARY)
GYO (SHOCK)
!?
WELL, YOU SAID BEFORE THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT A STRONG, SCARY WIIIIFE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I'M THE SORT OF SCARY GIRL CIEL DESPISES ~~~~!
HUNH !?
YOU HAVEN'T COME TO HATE ME?
THEN WILL YOU STILL MARRY ME?
BESIDES, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLO-GISING TO YOU.
TH-THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

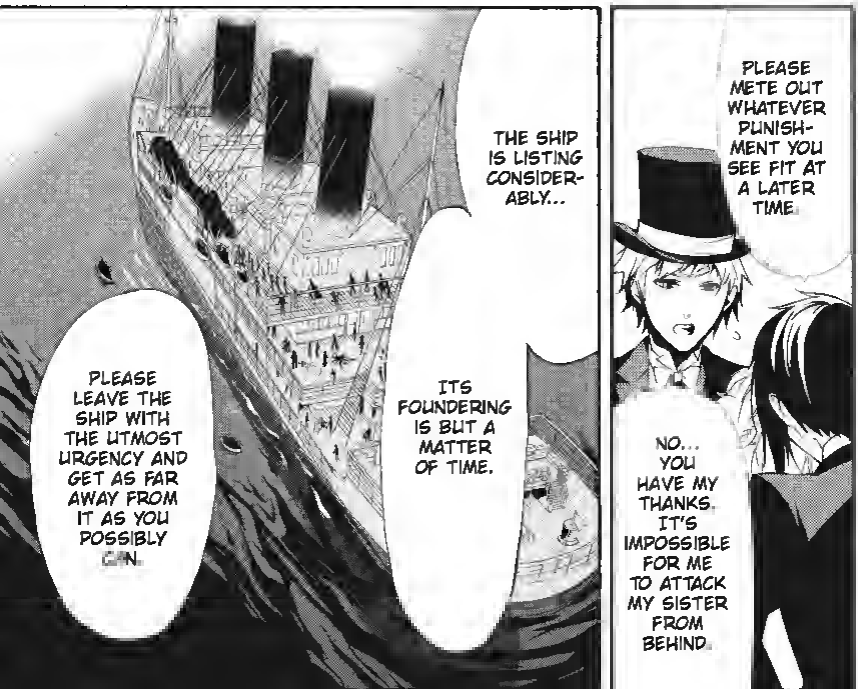
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY HATE Y...
HA? (GASP)
KAAA (BLUSH)
NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THIS!
WE'RE HEADING UPSTAIRS, C'MON!!
PWAH (SPUTTER)
EVEN THE YOUNG MASTER CANNOT HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST HIS LADY, I SEE.
KUH! KUH! KUH..!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, YOU!!
?
OHHHH, H-HOW VERY AMUSING...
WELL, THEN. LET US BE OFF.
YOU BASTARD. ARE YOU QUITE DONE GIGGLING YE—
SMILE!
SNAKE.

WELL, LET US REGROUP WITH THE MARQUESS AND HIS FAMILY FOR THE MOMENT.
ZAAAA (SHAAAA)
YEAH.
I TRULY AM SO GLAD EVERYONE IS SAFE.
WHERE'S RIAN?
SORRY, HE RAN AWAY ON US.
—SAYS OSCAR
—SAYS EMILY.
IS THAT SO ...?
SASHA (SPLASH)
ZAW!
THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Deck
ZAWA (CLAMOUR)
BACK OFF!!
WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST!
JUST LOOK AT THE SIGHT OF YOU! HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELVES BRITISH GENTLE-MEN!?
EDWARD!!

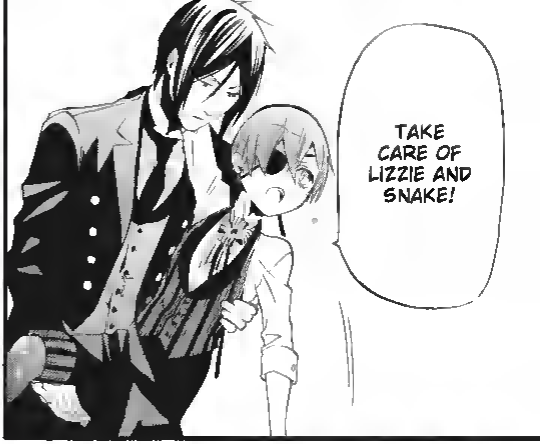
LIZZIE!!
GASHI (GRAB)
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU WELL!!
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU...
FORGIVE ME. IT WAS ENTIRELY DUE TO MY HELPLESSNESS.
ZAWA
YOU SAID IT!
BUT FINE, MY LECTURE CAN WAIT.
NOW YOU TWO GET ON A BOAT, QUICK AS YOU CAN...
EDWARD, I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU.

PUT HIM ON THE BOAT IN MY STEAD.
I CAN'T GET ONTO A BOAT YET.
!?
IF CIEL IS TO STAY BEHIND, I SHALL STAY T—!
!?
TO (CHOP)
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
.....

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR.
IT APPEARED THAT CONVINCING LADY ELIZABETH WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, SO I RESORTED TO A ROUGH MEASURE.
BUTLER!!


PLEASE METE OUT WHATEVER PUNISH-MENT YOU SEE FIT AT A LATER TIME.
NO... YOU HAVE MY THANKS. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ATTACK MY SISTER FROM BEHIND.
THE SHIP IS LISTING CONSIDER-ABLY...
ITS FOUNDERING IS BUT A MATTER OF TIME.
PLEASE LEAVE THE SHIP WITH THE UTMOST URGENCY AND GET AS FAR AWAY FROM IT AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

LET'S GO, SEBASTIAN.
VERY GOOD, SIR.


TAKE CARE OF LIZZIE AND SNAKE!

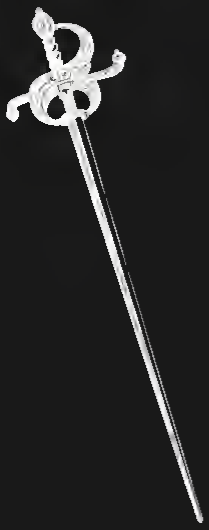
YOU DON'T NEED TO COME BACK, YOU KNOW!!

I SHALL RETURN, I ASSURE YOU.

I'M PERFECTLY FINE WITH NOT HAVING TO GIVE AWAY MY ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER'S HAND!

The Campania
First-Class Hall
GI (CREAK)
WHERE IS HE ...!?
DAMN! THE SHIP'S LISTING LIKE CRAZY.
GI
ZARAR (SLIDE)
GASHAN (CRASH)
GUWA (SWAY)
UWAH ...!
!?

I'VE GOT YOU HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER! ♡
OOOH, I SAY! YOU'RE QUITE A CATCH, DEAR BOY!
!?
が
しゃ

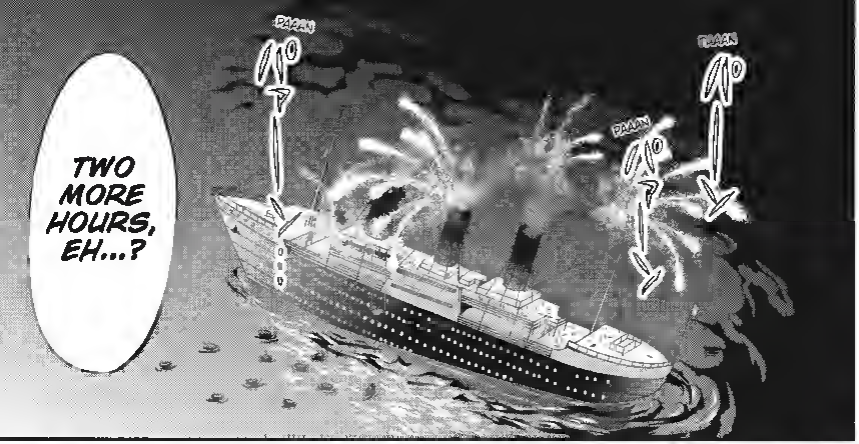


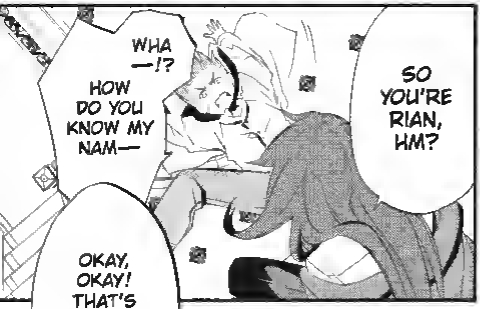
Black Butler

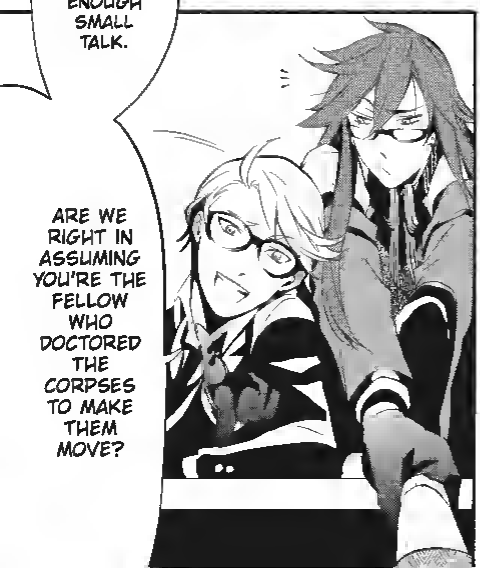
Chapter 59

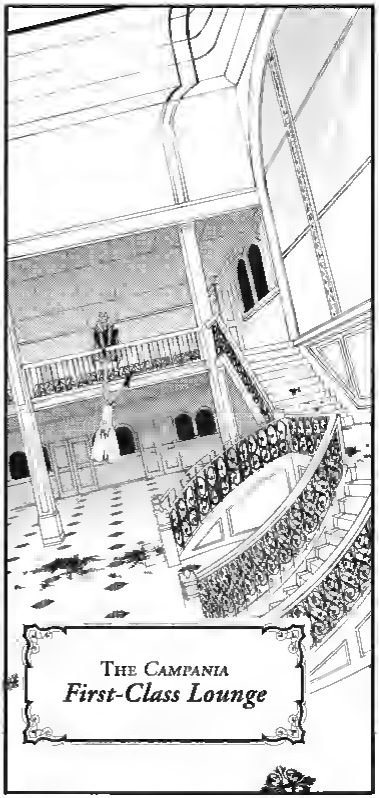
At noon : The Butler, Compromising

PAAAN
PAAAN (LAAAST)
WE'VE RECEIVED A TRANS-MISSION FROM A CARGO VESSEL SAILING NEARBY.
KEEP THE SHIP LIT!
SET OFF ALL THE FIREWORKS AND DISTRESS FLARES WE HAVE ABOARD!
ZUZUZU (PHOOSH)
GOKOGO (GLUBLUB)
ゴボボ
ズズズ
WAAA (SHRIEK)
DO IT QUICK!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS GET AS MANY PEOPLE ON THE BOATS AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.
AYE-AYE, SIR!
WAAAA
...IS THAT SO!
THEY CAN REACH US IN ABOUT TWO HOURS IF THEY HURRY.


TWO MORE HOURS, EH...?
PAAAN
PAAAN
PAAAN

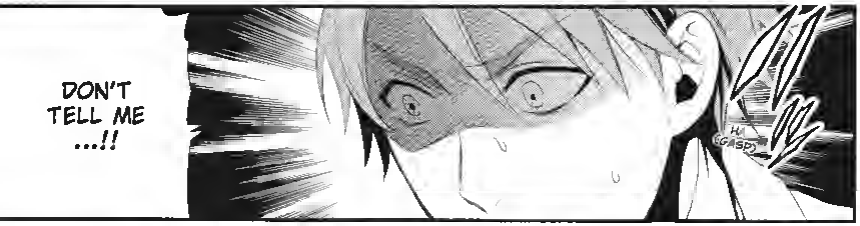

SO YOU'RE RIAN, HM?
WHA —!?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAM—


OKAY, OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH SMALL TALK.
ARE WE RIGHT IN ASSUMING YOU'RE THE FELLOW WHO DOCTORED THE CORPSES TO MAKE THEM MOVE?


THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Lounge

"DEATH" IS S'POSED TO BE A RULE THAT CAN NEVER BE OVERTURNED IN THIS WORLD.
チラ (CHIRA CHEEKO)
SUCH A PAIN, AREN'T THEY? THESE "IRREGULAR" TYPES.
!
TH— THERE'S A DEVICE IN MY ROOM THAT WILL NULLIFY THEIR ABSO-LUTE SALVA-TION!!
WELL?
HOW DO YOU STOP THOSE CORPSES?
—SO?

GARAGAN (EMPTY)
がらーーん…
TH-THIS CAN'T BE... IT TRULY WAS HERE!
YOU WERE SAYING? WHERE'S THIS DEVICE OF YOURS THEN?
THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Cabin

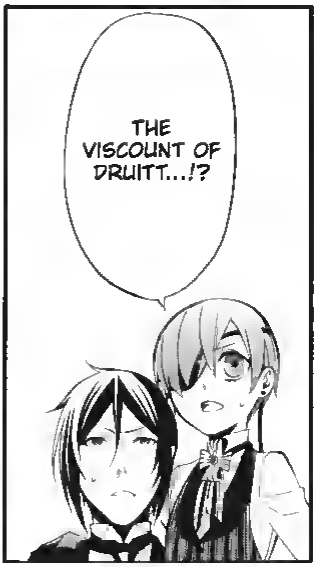

DON'T TELL ME ...!!
HA (GASP)

ZA (STEP)
THAT MAN MADE OFF WITH IT...!?
C DECK

YOU'RE —!!

C DECK
THE CAMPANIA
Corridor,
First-Class Cabins

NN? AND WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?


THE VISCOUNT OF DRUITT...!?

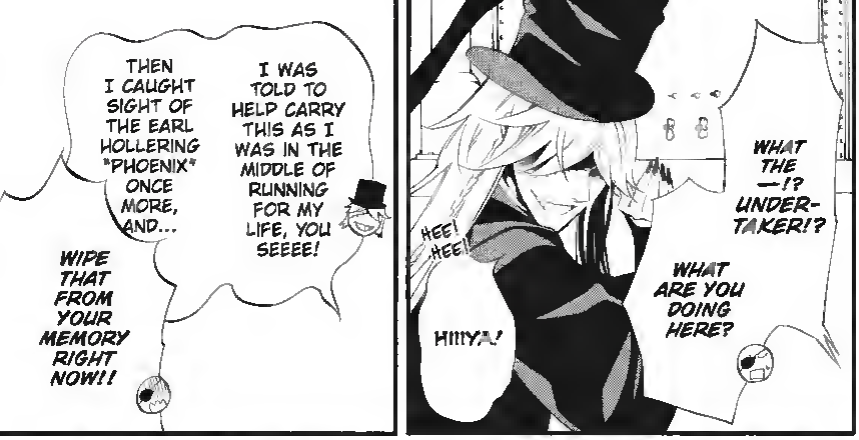
ギク
GIKU (GULP)

THE WALKING DEAD ARE AMBLING THROUGH THIS VESSEL AS WE SPEAK.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, VISCOUNT?
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TO NOT KNOW OF ME, AS I'M CELEBRATED IN SOCIETY CIRCLES FOR BEING THE PERSONIFICATION OF BEAUTY.
SARA (SWISH)
HUH!
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT I DAREN'T LEAVE ON THIS SINKING SHIP, EVEN IF IT MEANS EXPOSING MYSELF TO MORTAL DANGER.

I'VE NATTERED ON FOR TOO LONG... IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
OH, DEAR.
TO BEGIN WITH, THOSE CORPSES AMOUNT TO NOTHING MORE THAN USELESS DOLLS TO ME—
PHOENIX!!
HA (GASP)
THE ETERNAL FLAME IN THIS BREAST!
WE ARE—
CAN-NOT BE QUENCHED BY ANY-ONE!

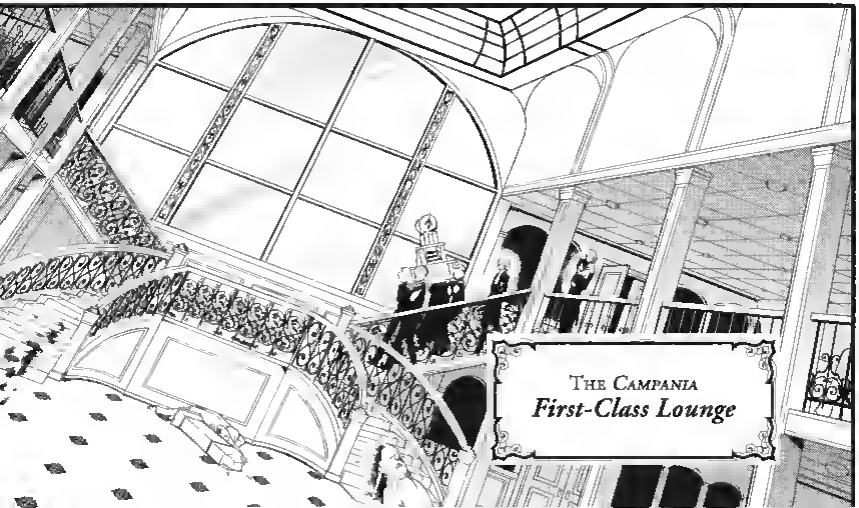
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?
!!
CAN IT PERHAPS STOP THE MOVEMENTS OF THOSE CORPSES?
THAT CONTRAP-TION!
AH! SO YOU WERE COMRADES! SPEAKING OF, I DO GET THE FEELING WE'VE MET BEFORE.
I KNEW IT...
THEN YOU'RE —!?
IF YOU WISH TO KNOW, FOLLOW ME.
I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO BEAR WITNESS AS WELL.
KO (CLICK)

KO
KO (CLICK)
SHALL WE TAKE IT BY FORCE, SIR?
NO. WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT.
LET'S HAVE HIM ACTIVATE IT FOR U—
GUH HEE HEE...
TO THE ADVENT OF A NEW AURORA BY WAY OF MEDICINE...
...THAT IS.


I WAS TOLD TO HELP CARRY THIS AS I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF RUNNING FOR MY LIFE, YOU SEEEE!
THEN I CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE EARL HOLLERING "PHOENIX" ONCE MORE, AND...
WIPE THAT FROM YOUR MEMORY RIGHT NOW!!
HEE! HEE!
HIIIYA!
WHAT THE —!? UNDER-TAKER!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I WONDER IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE AT ALL, YOU KNOW?
CAN'T SAY THAT I DOOO?

HISO (PSST)
But more importantly, do you have a clue as to how to work this thing?


THE CAMPANIA
First-Class Lounge

BE VERY CAUTIOUS WITH IT. IT IS WORTH MORE THAN YOUR LIVES.
WILL YOU START IT UP NOW?
NOT YET.
OUR CAST IS STILL ONE PLAYER SHORT.
?
ONE PLAYER?
AH!
YOU RAT!!
WHY DID YOU STEAL THE DEVICE !!?

HELLO THERE, RIAN.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
THIS DAY SHALL MARK THE FALL OF YOUR EMPIRE IN ONE NIGHT, AS POMPEII ONCE FELL...
...AND THE DAY MY NEW EMPIRE WAS BORN!
EH!?
WITH THE POWER OF THIS DEVICE...
...I SHALL BUILD A NEW EMPIRE!!

COME AGAIN?
HE WHO POSSESSES ETERNITY SHALL RULE WITH IMMORALITY AND DECADENT BEAUTY.
AND IT SHALL BE CALLED—
THE AURORA EMPIRE !!
SA GRAND
THIS ALL SEEMS TO HAVE GONE KINDA PEAR-SHAPED, HUH?
WHAT THE HECK?
HMPH
I'LL MAKE THAT CAD THE REDDEST OF REDS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
EASY NOW!!

DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS MACHINE?
!!
HEY, MISTER SUTCLIFF, TIME OUT!!
GABA (GRAB)
FU-FU.. THIS IS WHAT IS CALLED TRUE "POWER."
I CAN STAND VICTORIOUS AGAINST YOU ALL WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A SINGLE WINE-GLASS!!
FWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

THIS SENSE OF IRRITATION JUST GROWS AND GROWS. MAY I KILL HIM, YOUNG MASTER?
NO, NOT YET. THOUGH I DO UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL...

GASHAN
GOSHU
おぉおぉの
おぉぉぉ
GOGO
GHOGHO
WHA
—!?

おぉおぉぉぉぉぉ
HEY...! JUST LOOK AT THESE NUMBERS!!
"KAISER"... I SHALL START THE DEVICE IF YOU CALL ME THAT...
...WITH THAT LOVELY LITTLE MOUTH OF YOURS, SO VERY LIKE A COCK ROBIN'S.
VIS-COUNT, START THE DEVICE! HURRY !!
NON!!
I AM NO LONGER A VISCOUNT!
はぁ
HUH!?
えぇ?!
PLEASE WAIT. THOUGH I DO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL...
LET'S KILL HIM NOW, AFTER ALL.

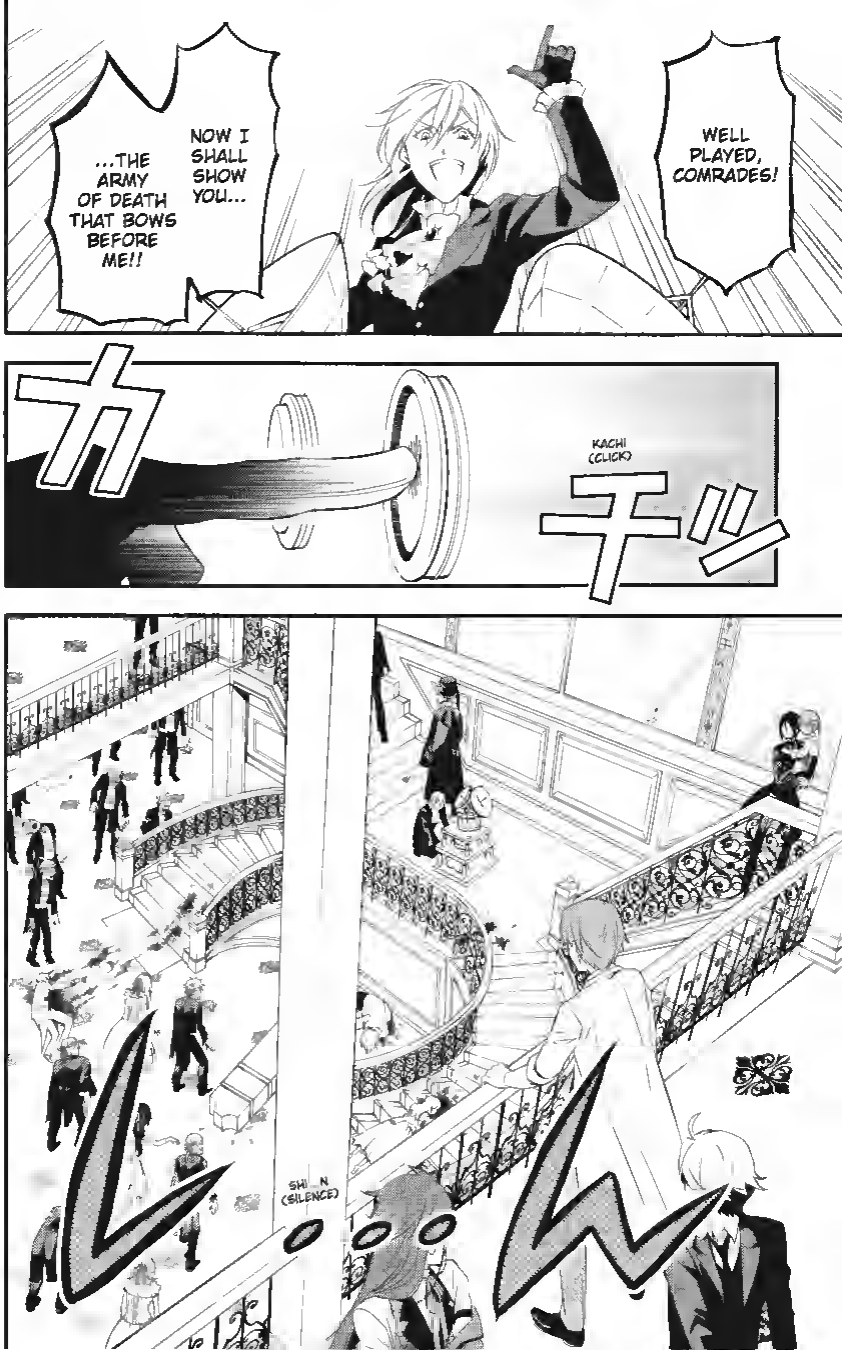
OOH... OOH!
GLADIATORS, WHO PUT THEIR FLESH AND BLOOD ON THE LINE, WHOSE LIVES SCATTER LIKE SO MANY FALLEN PETALS.
THIS PLACE IS JUST LIKE A CORRUPT COLISEUM.
GAZING OUT AS I SIP MY WINE, I TRULY AM...
...JUST LIKE EMPEROR NERO!
SFX: IRA (IRRITATED) IRA IRA IRA IRA
AAAAARGH
CAN WE KILL HIM NOW!?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU JUST STOPPED ME, DIDN'T YOU!?
DO YOU WANT TO GET SUSPENDED!?
GYARARARARA (WHEEE!)

HEY, YOU! GET A MOVE ON, AND START THAT THING UP, WOULD YOU!?
HEH...!
VERY WELL.
THE TIME FOR THE FOUNDING OF MY EMPIRE IS UPON US AT LAST.
NOW, THEN. ALL OF YOU!
SHOW ME THE DANCE OF THE PHOENIX IN PLEDGING YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO YOUR KAISER!

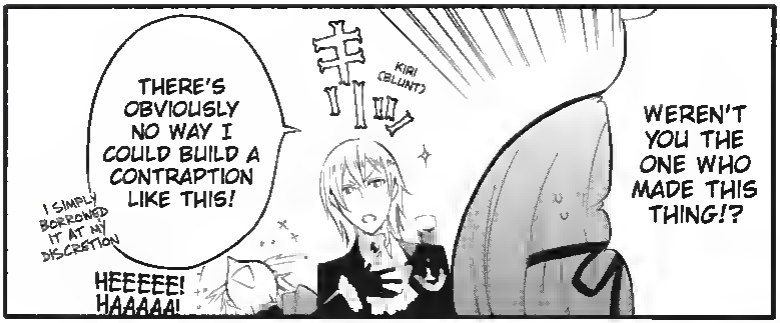
RIGHT. KILL HIM.
GUH! HEE HEE
WILL YOU BE SATISFIED WITH NEVER LEARNING WHAT THAT GADGET IS FOR?
DEAR, DEAR.

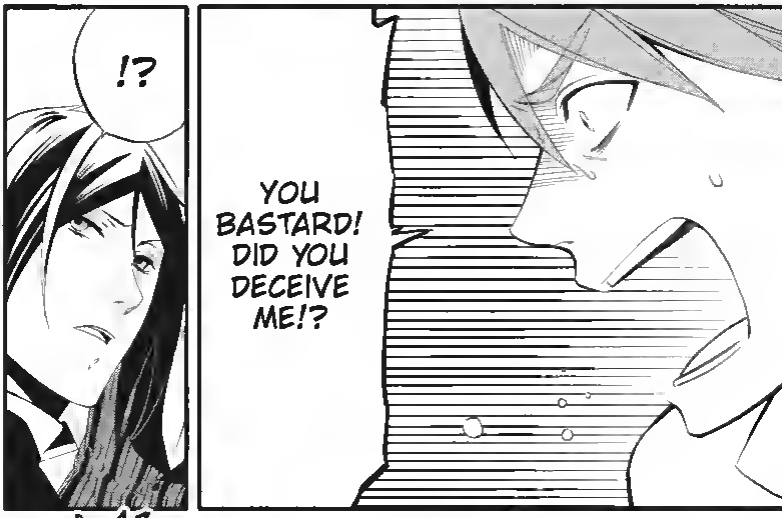
WHAT IS IT?
COME, NOW!!
KUH ...!
GUH FU FU!
ぐふふ
TH—
THE ETERNAL FLAME IN THIS BREAST...
...CANNOT BE QUENCHED BY ANYONE...
WE ARE!
THE NEW!

PHOENIX!!!


WELL PLAYED, COMRADES!
NOW I SHALL SHOW YOU...
...THE ARMY OF DEATH THAT BOWS BEFORE ME!!
カ
KACHI (CLICK)
チッ
SHI N (SILENCE)

HUH?
NOOOOO!!!
GYAAAH! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA-HA-HA!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT!?
WHY, RIAN! THE DEVICE YOU CRAFTED IS USELESS!
I-IT CAN'T BE!
GYAH-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA


WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO MADE THIS THING!?
KIRI (BLUNT)
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY NO WAY I COULD BUILD A CONTRAPTION LIKE THIS!
I SIMPLY BORROWED IT AT MY DISCRETION
HEEEEE! HAAAAA!


!?
YOU BASTARD! DID YOU DECEIVE ME!?

ZA (SKRSH)
BA (LEAP)
HAH!
WHAT A FARCE THIS IS!

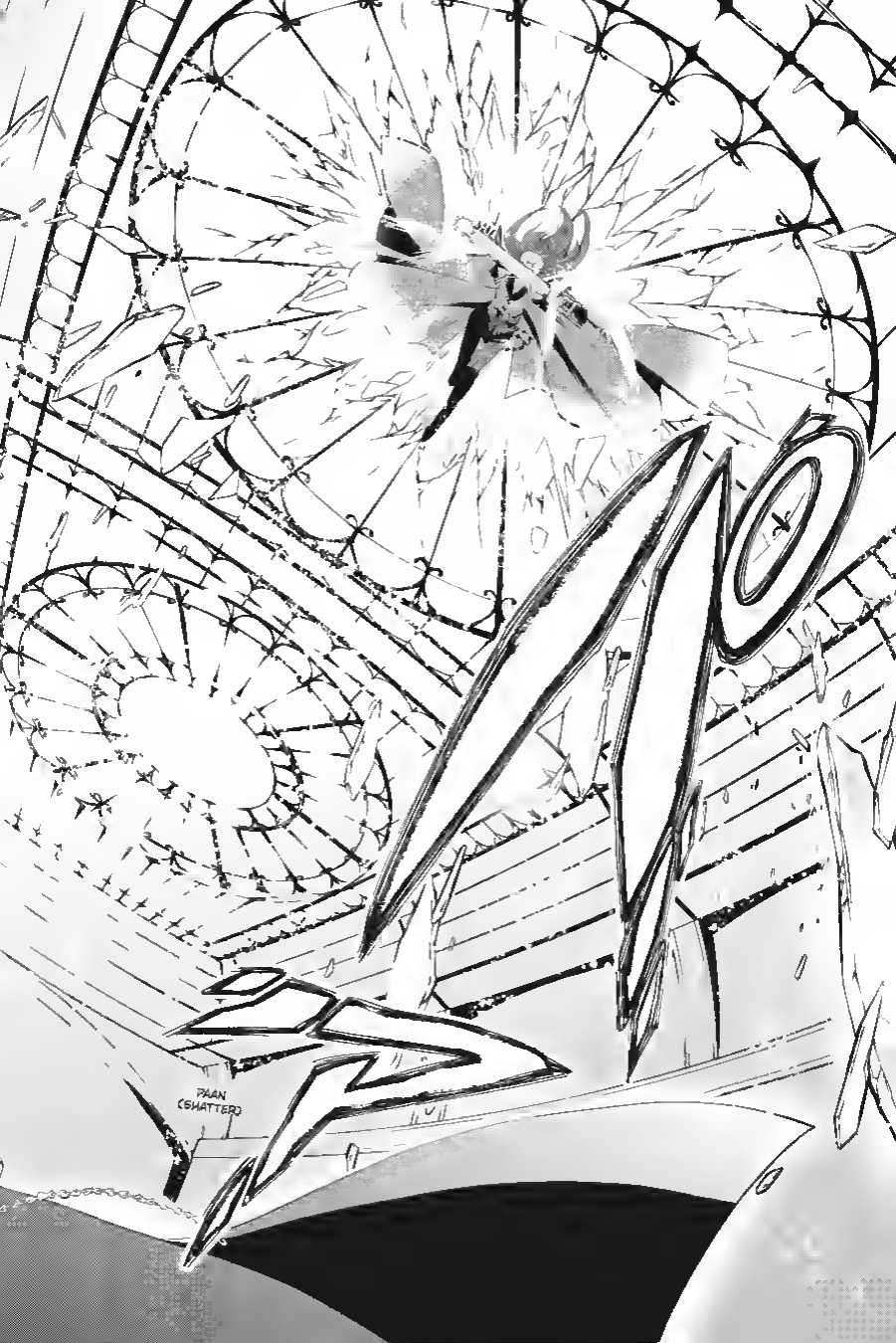
ZAN (SLICE)
WHOO-EE!
YEAH, HE REALLY IS SOMETHIN' ELS—
HEY, WAIT, MISTER SUT-CLIFF, SIR!!
WE REAPERS SHOULDN'T BE GOIN' AROUND KILLING HUMANS, REMEMBER ...!!?
GAKIIIN (CLANG)

WHA—!?
HEE! HEE...! IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAUGHED THIS HARD...
SYARARARA (VREEE)
IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, LOSING SUCH AN AMUSING CHAP WOULD AMOUNT TO A LOSS FOR THIS WORLD.
PARA
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE WITH ME, HMM?
MY LITTLE GRIM REAPERS?
演武

GIIN (SHHNG)
THE BLADE OF MY DEATH SCYTHE WON'T CUT THROUGH ...!?
GYARARARA (YREEEE)
BUWA (BLAST)

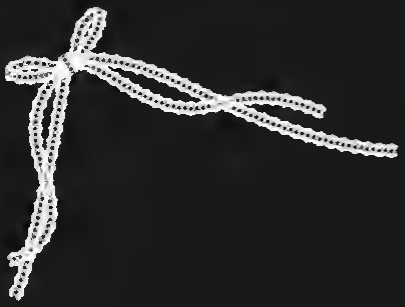
!!

ZIUM (ZIMU)


PAAN
(SHATTER)

GUUH ...!
YOUNG MASTER!!
AAH.
HOW SAD IT IIIS...

...THAT LAUGHTER SHOULD VANISH FROM THIS PLACE.



Black Butler

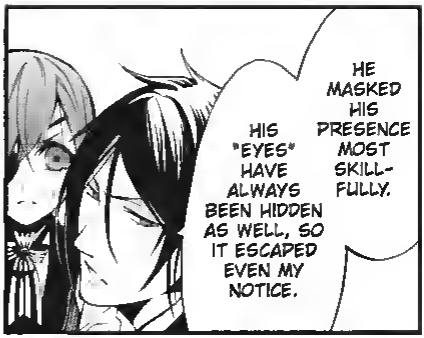
AAH. HOW SAD IT IIIS...
...THAT LAUGHTER SHOULD VANISH FROM THIS PLACE.

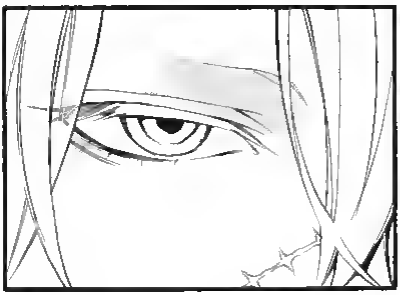
Chapter 60
In the afternoon : The Butler, Shaken

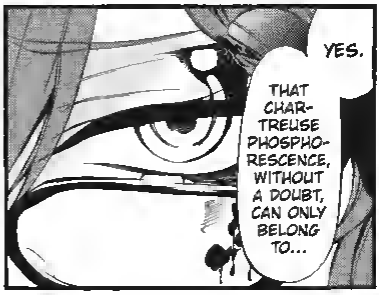
Black Butler

UNDER-
TAKER
...!?
GASHAAAN
(GRAAASH)

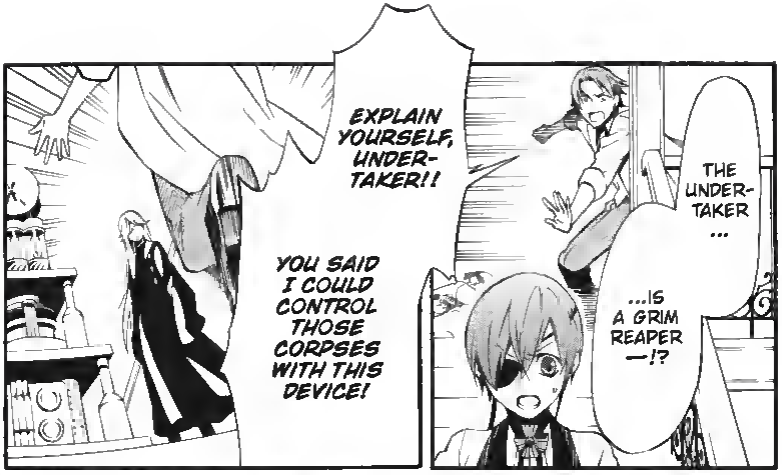
SUTO (CHOP)
MISTER SUTCLIFF, SIR! THOSE EYES...
SAME HERE. HE FOOLED ME GOOD.


HE MASKED HIS PRESENCE MOST SKILLFULLY.
HIS "EYES" HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HIDDEN AS WELL, SO IT ESCAPED EVEN MY NOTICE.

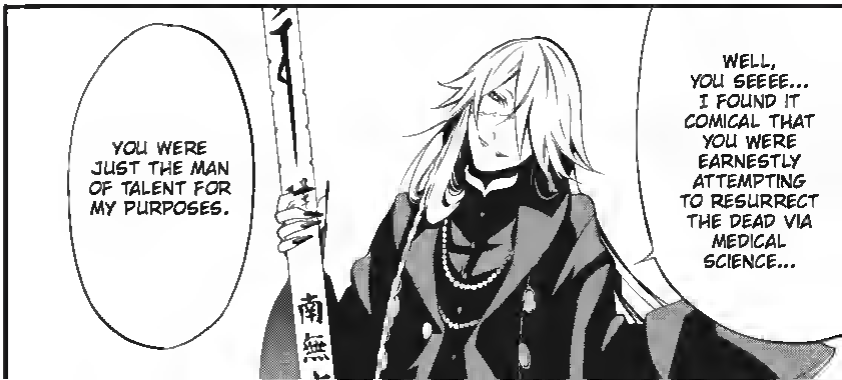



YES.
THAT CHARTREUSE PHOSPHORESCENCE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, CAN ONLY BELONG TO...

...A GRIM REAPER!
HEE! HEE!
HOW NOSTALGIIIC! IT'S BEEN AT LEAST HALF A CENTURY SINCE I WAS LAST CALLED THAT.

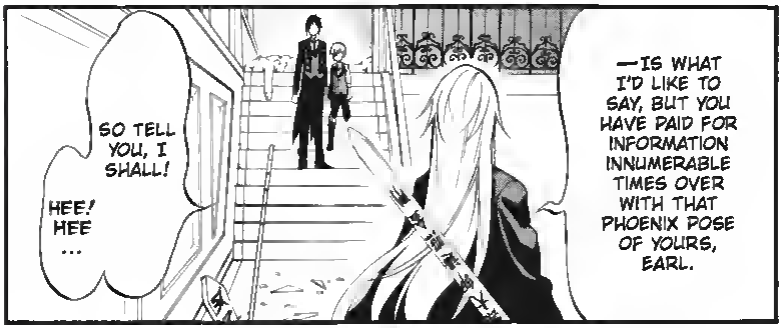

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, UNDER-TAKER!!
YOU SAID I COULD CONTROL THOSE CORPSES WITH THIS DEVICE!
THE UNDER-TAKER ...
...IS A GRIM REAPER —!?

!!
DID IIII NOW, TRULY?
SO YOU TRICKED ME...
WAS IT ALL A LIE!?
EVEN THE PART ABOUT SAILING TO AMERICA TO POPULARISE ABSOLUTE SALVATION... EVERY-THING!!?

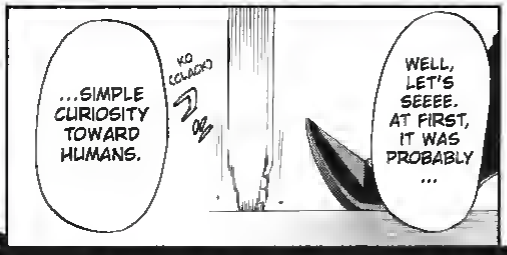

WELL, YOU SEEEE... I FOUND IT COMICAL THAT YOU WERE EARNESTLY ATTEMPTING TO RESURRECT THE DEAD VIA MEDICAL SCIENCE...
YOU WERE JUST THE MAN OF TALENT FOR MY PURPOSES.

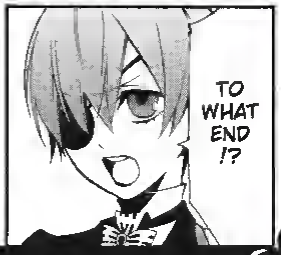
BESIDES!
THAT WAS YOUR DESIRE, RIIIGHT?
AND WHAT OF OUR SINGULAR DESIRE TO BRING THE WHOLE WORLD INTO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING THROUGH MEDICINE ...!?
YOU ARE NOT CAPABLE OF BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE BY THE POWER OF THE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR GRASP
AND IT ALL CEASED TO BE MEDICINE IN THE FIRST PLACE THE MOMENT YOU BEGAN TO DEPEND ON MY TECH-NIQUES.
ONE WHO CONDUCTS PROCEDURES UPON HIS PATIENTS THAT HE HIMSELF DOES NOT UNDERSTAND CAN NO LONGER CALL HIMSELF A PHYSICIAN.
TON (PAT)
YOU WERE A GOOD LAD, NAIVELY BUYING ALL I SAID WITHOUT QUESTION.
GAKU (COLLAPSE)
H-HOW COULD THIS BE...?

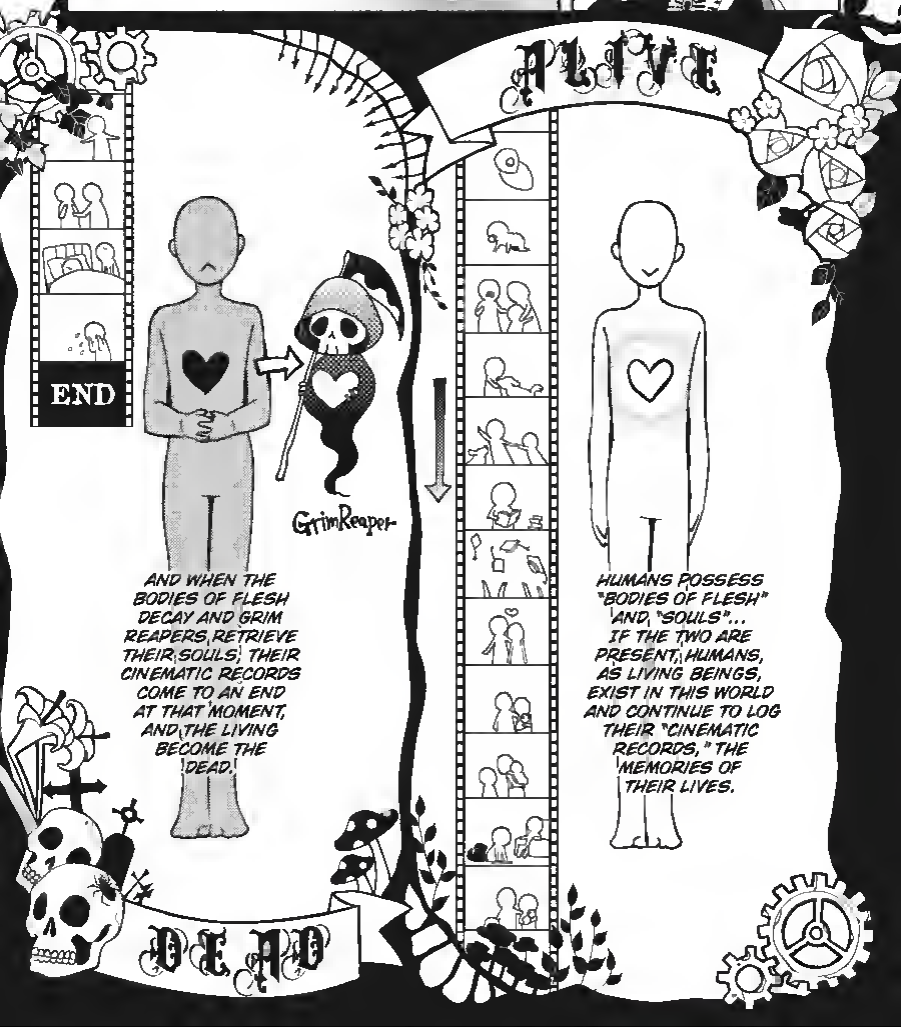
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU MASTER-MINDED THE AURORA SOCIETY'S EXPERI-MENTS TO RESURRECT THE DEAD?
UNDER-TAKER!
THAT'S A SECRET. ♡

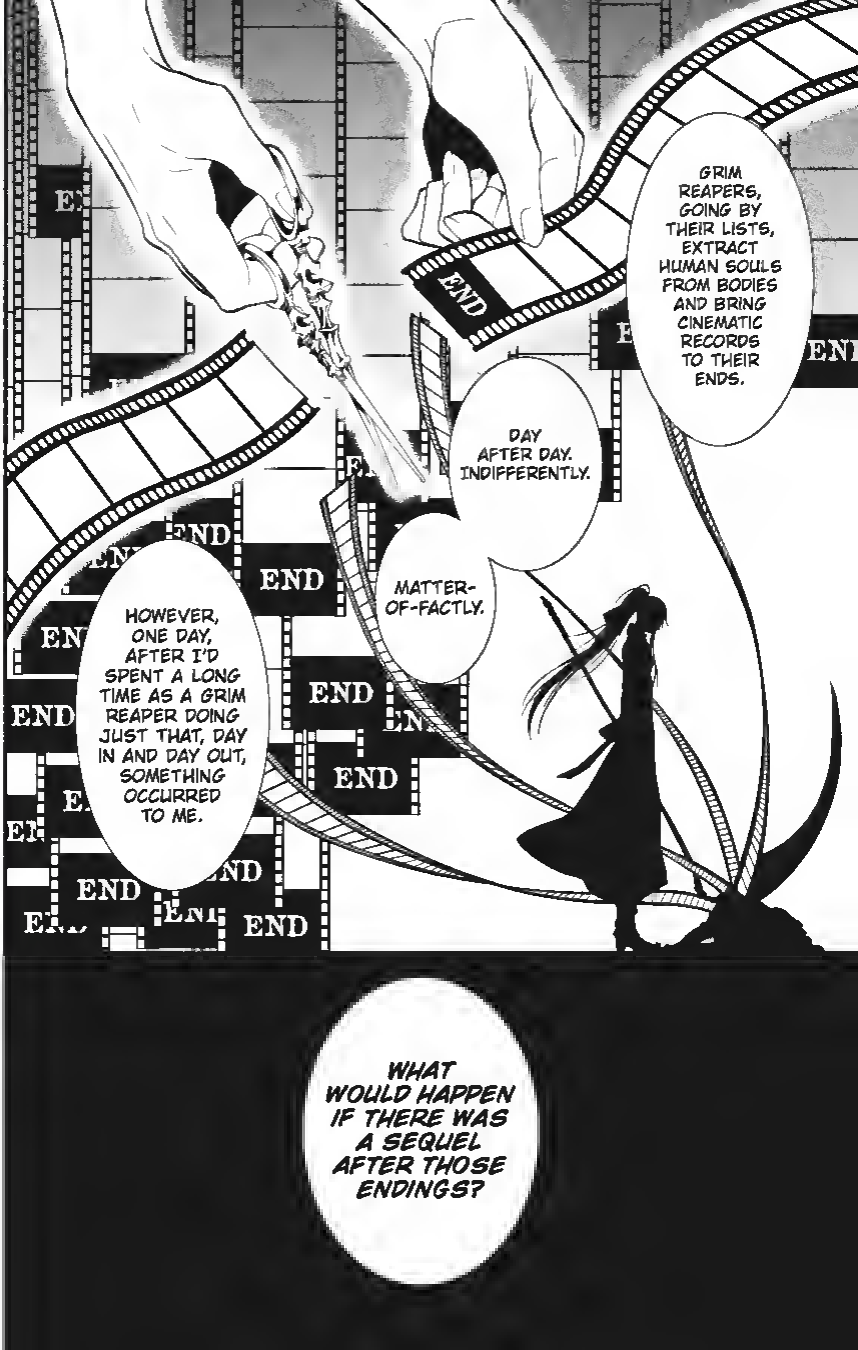

—IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT YOU HAVE PAID FOR INFORMATION INNUMERABLE TIMES OVER WITH THAT PHOENIX POSE OF YOURS, EARL.
SO TELL YOU, I SHALL!
HEE! HEE ...

おおおお


...SIMPLE CURIOSITY TOWARD HUMANS.
KO (CLACK)
OG
WELL, LET'S SEEEE. AT FIRST, IT WAS PROBABLY ...


TO WHAT END !?


ALIVE
END
GrimReaper
AND WHEN THE BODIES OF FLESH DECAY AND GRIM REAPERS RETRIEVE THEIR SOULS, THEIR CINEMATIC RECORDS COME TO AN END AT THAT MOMENT, AND THE LIVING BECOME THE DEAD.
HUMANS POSSESS "BODIES OF FLESH" AND "SOULS"... IF THE TWO ARE PRESENT, HUMANS, AS LIVING BEINGS, EXIST IN THIS WORLD AND CONTINUE TO LOG THEIR "CINEMATIC RECORDS," THE MEMORIES OF THEIR LIVES.
DEAD


END
GRIM REAPERS, GOING BY THEIR LISTS, EXTRACT HUMAN SOULS FROM BODIES AND BRING CINEMATIC RECORDS TO THEIR ENDS.
DAY AFTER DAY. INDIFFERENTLY.
MATTER-OF-FACTLY.
HOWEVER, ONE DAY, AFTER I'D SPENT A LONG TIME AS A GRIM REAPER DOING JUST THAT, DAY IN AND DAY OUT, SOMETHING OCCURRED TO ME.
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WAS A SEQUEL AFTER THOSE ENDINGS?

SOULS ALONE ARE ALL GRIM REAPERS HUNT, AFTER ALL.
END
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE BODIES OF FLESH THAT HAD LOST THEIR SOULS AND WHOSE MEMORIES HAD COME TO AN END IF I ADDED A CONTINUATION TO THOSE VERY MEMORIES?
GrimReaper
THE "BODIES" AND THE "MEMORIES" IN THEIR BRAINS STILL REMAIN IN THIS WORLD.
?
!?

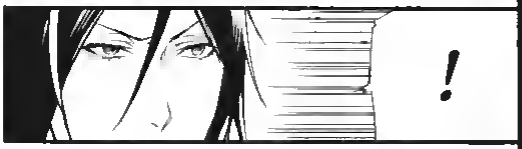
おおぉ
OOOO
OHOHO
HEE! HEE!
WELL, NOW! WHY NOT USE YOUR POWERS AND HAVE A LOOK-SEE AT THEIR RECORDS FOR YOUR-SELF?

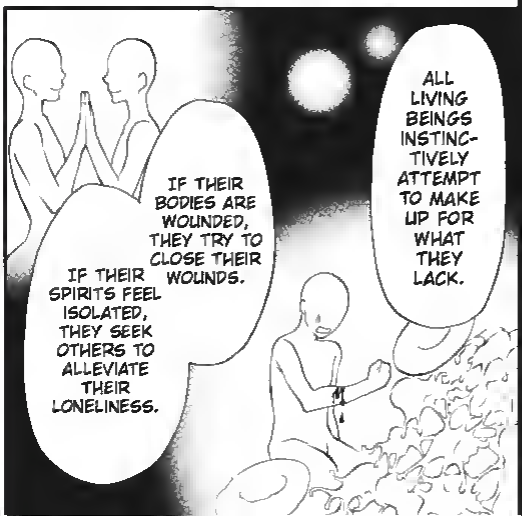
COME ON...
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU EDITED THEIR CINEMATIC RECORDS?

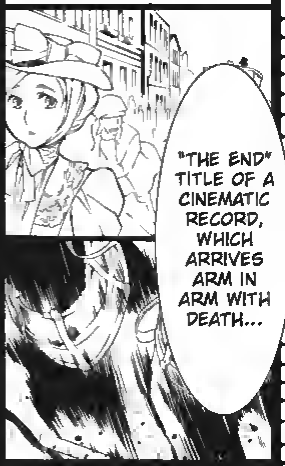
GYARARARA (VREEE)
ZA (ZZT)
ZA
END
END

END
PA
CFLASHD
!?
ZA
ZA
!?
THIS IS...!!
CAN'T SEE
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HEY! WHAT IS THIS!?
ZA

...THE FLESH, UNDER THE MISTAKEN NOTION THAT "MY LIFE CONTINUES ON"...
...BEGAN MOVING AGAIN WITHOUT ITS SOUL!

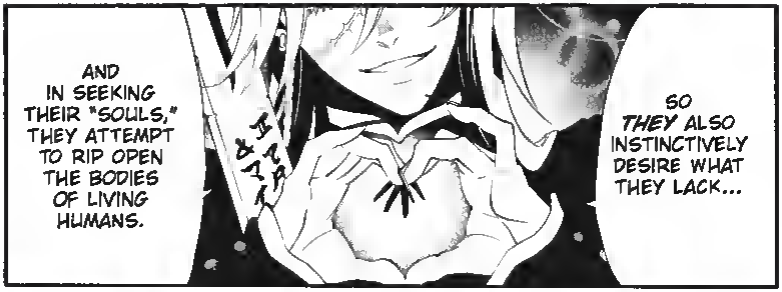

!

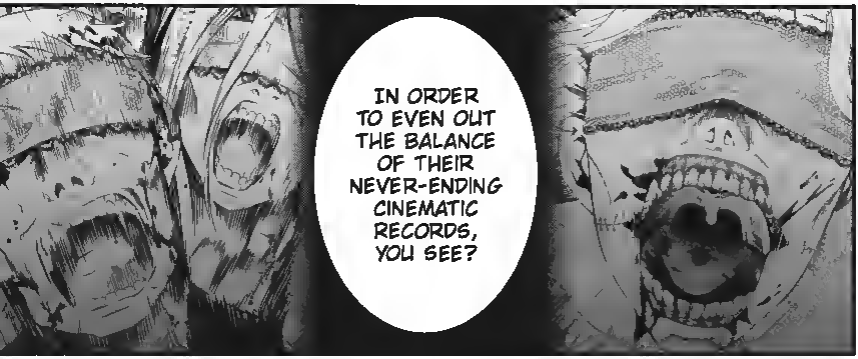

IF THEIR SPIRITS FEEL ISOLATED, THEY SEEK OTHERS TO ALLEVIATE THEIR LONELINESS.
IF THEIR BODIES ARE WOUNDED, THEY TRY TO CLOSE THEIR WOUNDS.
ALL LIVING BEINGS INSTINC-TIVELY ATTEMPT TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT THEY LACK.

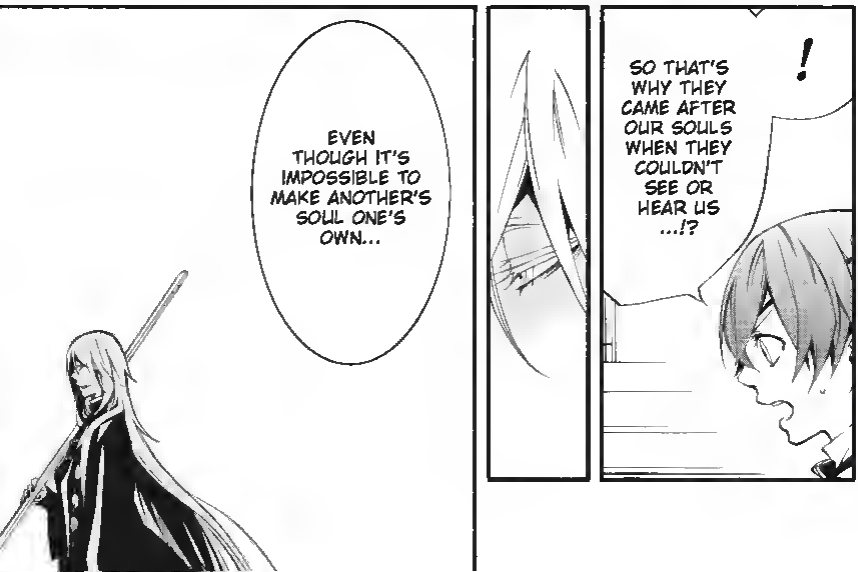

"THE END" TITLE OF A CINEMATIC RECORD, WHICH ARRIVES ARM IN ARM WITH DEATH...

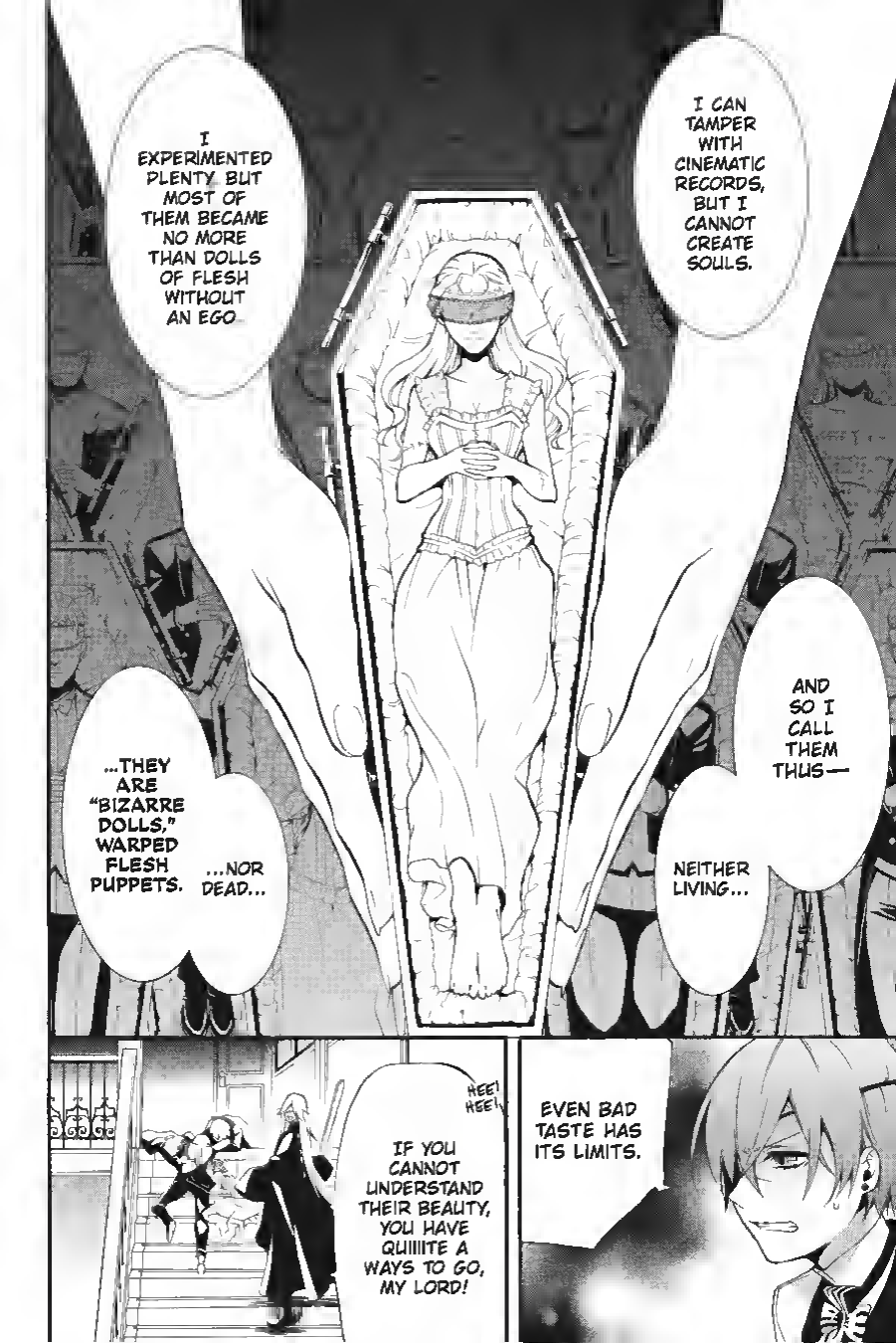
END

...NEVER APPEARS BECAUSE I ATTACHED COUNTERFEIT MEMORIES TO THE RECORDS, LIKE SO.
AND TO MY SURPRISE ...


AND IN SEEKING THEIR "SOULS," THEY ATTEMPT TO RIP OPEN THE BODIES OF LIVING HUMANS.
SO *THEY* ALSO INSTINCTIVELY DESIRE WHAT THEY LACK...


IN ORDER TO EVEN OUT THE BALANCE OF THEIR NEVER-ENDING CINEMATIC RECORDS, YOU SEE?

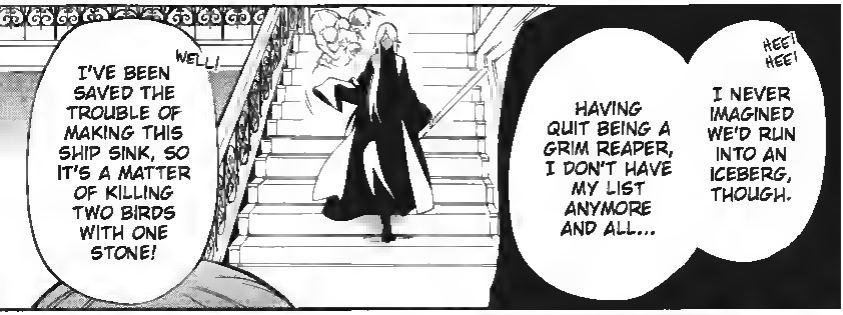

EVEN THOUGH IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANOTHER'S SOUL ONE'S OWN...
SO THAT'S WHY THEY CAME AFTER OUR SOULS WHEN THEY COULDN'T SEE OR HEAR US ...!?
!

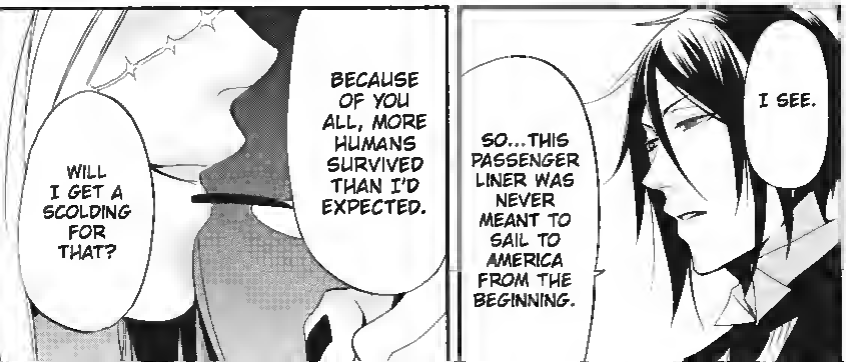

I EXPERIMENTED PLENTY, BUT MOST OF THEM BECAME NO MORE THAN DOLLS OF FLESH WITHOUT AN EGO.
I CAN TAMPER WITH CINEMATIC RECORDS, BUT I CANNOT CREATE SOULS.
...THEY ARE "BIZARRE DOLLS," WARPED FLESH PUPPETS.
...NOR DEAD...
AND SO I CALL THEM THUS—
NEITHER LIVING...
HEE! HEE!
IF YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEIR BEAUTY, YOU HAVE QUIIIITE A WAYS TO GO, MY LORD!
EVEN BAD TASTE HAS ITS LIMITS.

ARE THEY NOT MORE BEAUTIFUL NOW THAN WHEN THEY DREW BREATH?
MOUTHS THAT NO LONGER CLAMOUR LOUDLY OR SPIT OUT LIES.
WHITE, WAXEN SKIN THAT HAS BEEN SEWN TOGETHER PRETTILY IN SEMBLANCE OF THEIR LIVING SELVES.
AUH!
I'M GOING TO BE SICK!
THESE CHILDREN DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN OR FEAR.
THEY SINGLE-MINDEDLY DESIRE SOULS AND DEVOUR THE LIVING...
!?
...THERE ARE HUMANS WHO DESIRE THESE BIZARRE DOLLS, YOU KNOW?
THAT MAY BE HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...

DO THEY NOT MAKE THE BEST MILITARY ANIMALS?
WHAT SAY YOU?
THOSE ECCENTRIC FELLOWS SAID THEY WANTED TO SEE JUST HOW USEFUL THESE COULD BE...
...SO I DECIDED TO EXPERIMENT BY TOSSING THE SAME NUMBER OF "BIZARRE DOLLS" AS LIVE HUMANS ONTO THIS LUXURY VESSEL.
WHA—!?
...!?

WHO AND HOW MANY WILL BE LEFT STANDING WHEN THE KILLING ENDS?
...YOU REALLY HAVE LOST YOUR MIND.


HEE! HEE!
I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D RUN INTO AN ICEBERG, THOUGH.
HAVING QUIT BEING A GRIM REAPER, I DON'T HAVE MY LIST ANYMORE AND ALL...
WELL!
I'VE BEEN SAVED THE TROUBLE OF MAKING THIS SHIP SINK, SO IT'S A MATTER OF KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

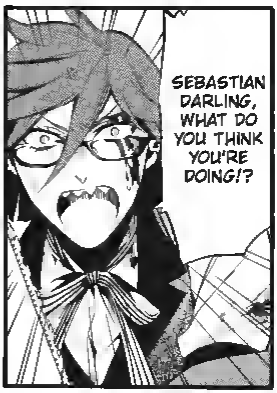

I SEE.
SO...THIS PASSENGER LINER WAS NEVER MEANT TO SAIL TO AMERICA FROM THE BEGINNING.
BECAUSE OF YOU ALL, MORE HUMANS SURVIVED THAN I'D EXPECTED.
WILL I GET A SCOLDING FOR THAT?

ALL THE SAME, HE AIN'T WEARIN' SPECS.
IS HE ONE OF THOSE "DESERTERS" WE GET ONCE EVERY BLUE MOON?
NO DOUBT.
IT'D BE MIND-BLOWING TO ALLOW A GRIM REAPER TO WARP "DEATH."
HMPH
THE MORE I HEAR, THE MORE WE CAN'T OVERLOOK THIS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS.
ANYWAY, A GRIM REAPER INTERFERING WITH LIFE AND DEATH IN THE HUMAN WORLD IS AGAINST THE RULES.
TO HEAR YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SAY THAT, SIR...
AND...
TYING HIM UP AND TURNING HIM OVER TO THE HIGHER-UPS WOULD ALSO SEEM TO BE THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO GET HIM TO REVEAL THE WORKINGS OF THE MOVING CORPSES, HMM...?
...ON TOP OF YOUR BREACH OF CONDUCT, I SHAN'T FORGIVE YOUR SIN OF HARMING A GIRL'S FACE!
I SHAN'T FORGIVE YOU, EVEN IF YOU ARE A TOTAL DISH!!
ゴルァ
GRAB
FLOP

GARI (GRIND)
GARI
GYARU (GYA) (YEEE)
OOPSIE.
ZA (SLIDE)
GARI
DOKA (KICK)
I GOT YOUR BA—
OA AH!

(SHOOSH)
(SLIIIDE)
HEY!!

(GRIP)
(TUG)
HUNH!?
WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO HAUL HIM AWAY.


SEBASTIAN DARLING, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

AND SO...
...WE SHALL TAKE HIM INTO OUR CUSTODY.
WE MUSTN'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
WE OURSELVES ARE TASKED WITH PRESENTING THE TRUTH BEFORE HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
THIS IS MY DUTY AS A BUTLER.
I HUMBLY ASK THAT OUTSIDERS REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING.
MY...!
MY!
OUTSIDERS SHOULD STAY OUT OF IT!
THIS IS A GRIM REAPER CONCERN!

HA!
STOIC AS USUAL, SEBASTIAN DARLING! YOU DO KNOW HOW TO GET MY BLOOD RUSHING!

IF YOU'RE RARING TO GO, WE WON'T HOLD BACK EITHER!
FINE, THEN!

THAT THE PHRASE "HOLD BACK" EVEN APPEARS IN YOUR DICTIONARY COMES AS THE GREATEST OF ALL THE DAY'S SHOCKS.

GIRO (GLARE)
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF LOSING TO AN OLD MAN LIKE YOU!!

THEN IT'S SIMPLE. THE FIRST ONE TO GET HIM WINS.

...NOW, THEN.
HEE! HEE...
THIS IS JUUUST LIKE RABBIT HUNTING.
WHO WILL BE THE HUNTED RABBIT?

DA
(LEAP)

Black Butler

Chapter 61

At night : The Butler, Born

WHOA THERE!
MY MIS-TAKE!
!?

BI (FLICK)
WHOA!
...HM!?
YOUR EYESIGHT SEEMS RATHER POOR...
GYARARARA (VREEEE)
THAT PUTS YOU AT A DISAD-VANTAGE!!
KA (SHNK)
GRIM REAPERS ARE ALL VERRRY NEAR-SIGHTED!
GA (WHACK)

EH ...!?
I CUT THROUGH IT!?
THEN WHY COULDN'T I BEFORE!?
THE BLADE OF MY DEATH SCYTHE WON'T CUT THROUGH ...!?
—DO (WHACK)
NI (CLEEK)

TON
GYARARA
GYREEE!!

...!!
DAMN, MY SPECS!
GA CHAKAN

YOU'RE STILL GREEN IF YOU'RE RELYING ON YOUR EYEEES!
GO (WHACK)
GO (THUD)
FASH! (SNATCH)
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU...
...DOING !?
BI (TOSS)

ER!
THANK YOU, SIR—

GA (SHINK)
KA (CLICK)
MY, MY.
GA
KO (THINK)
HO (WHOOM)
(WHIZ)
THEY MAY BE INFERIOR TO DEATH SCYTHES, BUT...
GA
CAN YOU REALLY HUNT ME WITH SUCH THINNY TABLEWARE, I WONDER?
GA
GA

ZAN (SLASH)
...THE SHARPNESS OF OUR FAMILY SILVER IS FIRST-CLASS!
KA (SHNK)
KA
KA
DOSHU (WHSH)
I SEEEE!
ZA (SK!D)
ZA
YOU'RE GOING TO HUNT ME DOWN, AREN'T YOOOU?
GUTO (LAND)
HEE! HEE!
COME, COME. WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS THIS ALL THE THREE OF YOU! CAN MANAGE?

...YOU SAID IT.
THE SHIP IS LISTING PRETTY BAD.
WE'RE OUT OF TIME.
HE'S REALLY PISSING ME OFF ...
LET'S DO THIS QUICK.
DA CLEAR?
WE'VE GOTTA ATTACK HEAD-ON!!
GYARARA CVREEE!
I CAN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT MY LOOKS!!

GAKUIN (LAAAN)
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! A DEATH SCYTHE IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH ANYTHING...!
GYAGARARA (YEEEE)
AGAIN!?
SO...
RARA

...HOW COME YOU CAN PARRY OUR DEATH SCYTHES !?
GYARARARA
THE DEATH SCYTHE CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING... HM?
DON'T YOU FIND THAT CATCHPHRASE A LITTLE FUNNY?
!?
WELL!
IT'S NOT FUNNY TO ME IN THE VERY LEEEAST!
GYARARA
HEE! HEE!

THERE IS ONE THING, ISN'T THERE?
ONE THING THAT IT CAN'T CUT THROUGH.
YOU DON'T MEAN ...!?
BOOM

GAH-HAH
DOSH (WHAM)
THAT'S A...
.....KUH ...!
ヨロ
YORO (SWAY)

...DEATH SCYTHE!!

OOOOO
(HSOOOHM)
I SEE.
IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY DEATH SCYTHES, THE MOTTO THAT A DEATH SCYTHE CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING BECOMES A FALSEHOOD.
DON'T THEY GET COLLECTED UNCONDITIONALLY WHEN A GRIM REAPER RETIRES...?
I FOUND IT HARD TO PART WITH MINE AS WE'D BEEN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG. 'TWAS SUUUCH TROUBLE SNEAKING IT OUT WITH MEEE!

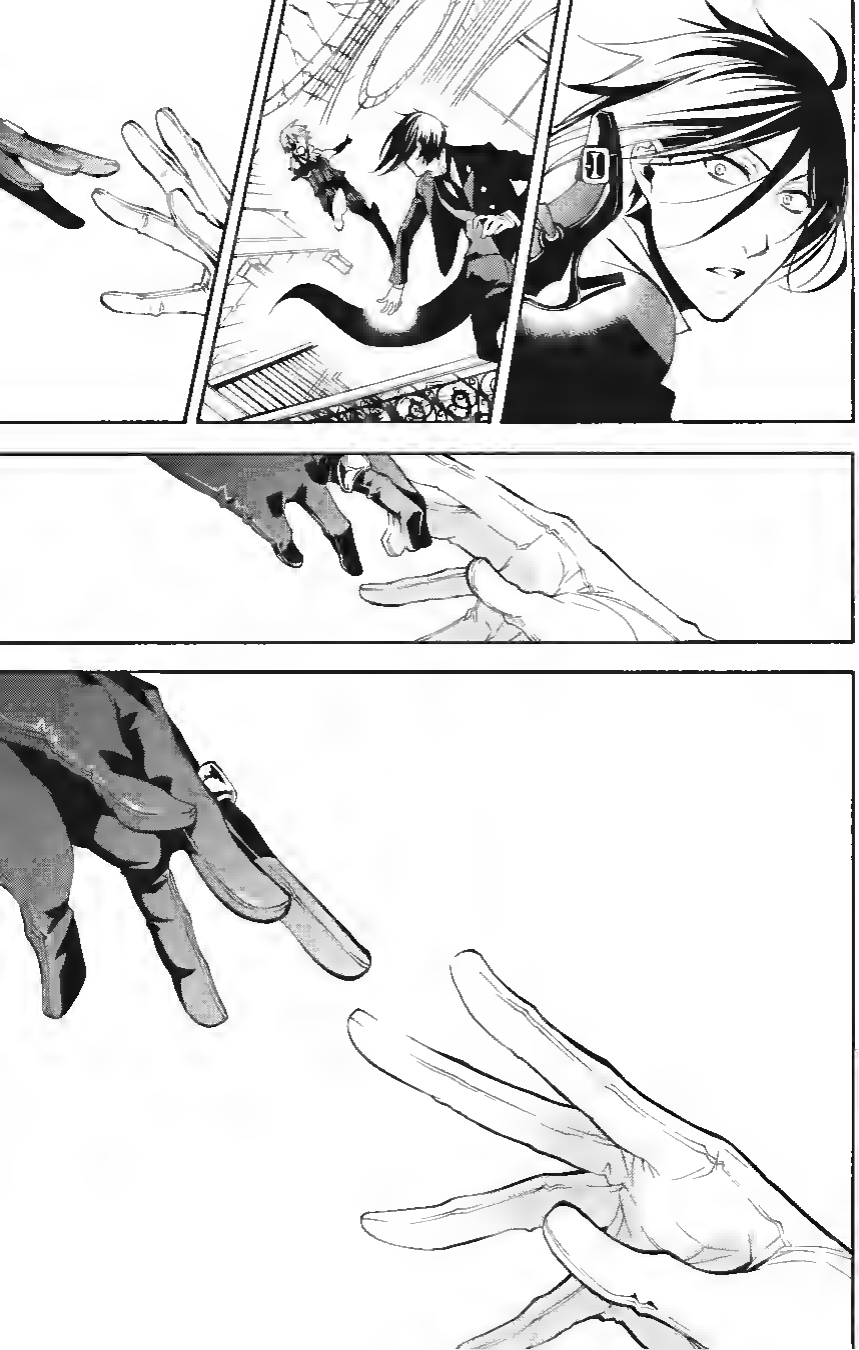
JUST LIKE THE PITIFUL RABBITS IN THE HUNT THAT YOU ARE?
NOW!
SHALL I TRY HUNTING YOU DOWN INSTEAD?
ZUA (SWING)

DOO (WHOOM)
GURA (SWAY)
GURA
DO
!!
DO
DO
DO

IT'S NO USE.
KIN (CLANG)
DO (BANG)
DO
DO
SLICING TABLES IS NO DIFFERENT THAN BREAKING BISCUITS.
!
GOTO (CLUNK)
GOTO
I SIMPLY WANTED TO GET INSIDE OF THE WIDE REACH OF YOUR SCYTHE.
ZA (SLIDE)

THEN ...
YOU THOUGHT UP AN AMUSING NOTION, MASTER BUTLER!
TO (TMP)
SO SHOOM
...I SHALL DO THE SAME.
!?

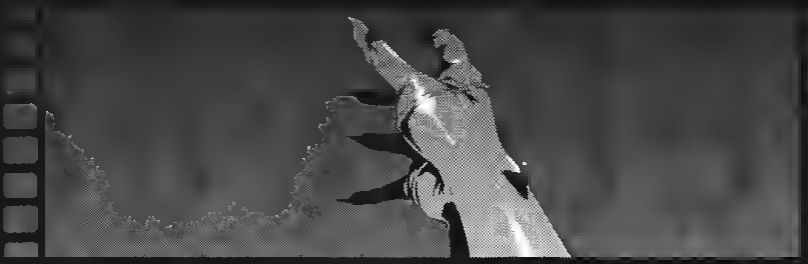
ZA
(ZOOM)
I CAN AT LONG LAST HAVE YOUR LORDSHIP SET FOOT INTO THE COFFIN I CUSTOM-MADE JUST FOR YOU...
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME.



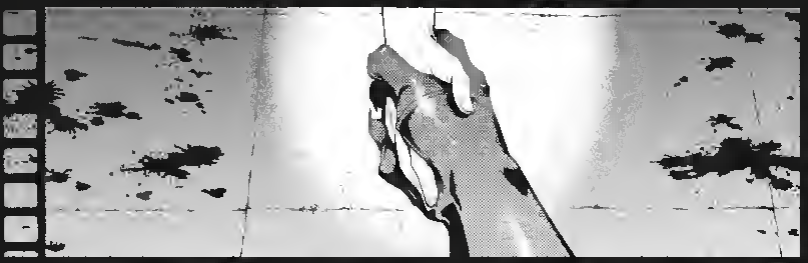
HUMANS ARE WEAK AND FRAIL, BUT IT IS SURPRISINGLY DIFFICULT TO DRAG ONESELF THROUGH A HUMAN LIFE...
...MASTER BUTLER.

...WHY THE LIKES OF A NOXIOUS BEAST SUCH AS YOURSELF WOULD BE PLAYING THE PART OF A BUTLER IN A TAILCOAT.
YOU SEEEE, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MOST CURIOUS ...
I'LL HAVE YOU SHOW ME...
...YOUR CINEMATIC RECORD.

YES. HE IS CALLING ME.



AMIDST SORROW, RAGE, CONFUSION, AND DESPAIR...



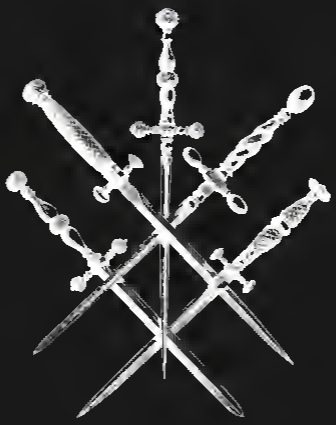
....HE IS HURLING OUT THE WORDS OF A CURSE.

HE IS CALLING...ME.

CIEL.
CIEL PHANTOM-HIVE.
FU FU... I SEE. VERY WELL.
THEN I MUST TAKE A FORM BEFITTING THE SERVANT OF AN EARL.
THE SUCCESSOR TO THE TITLE OF EARL PHANTOMHIVE

KO (CLICK)
KO
—NOW.
KO
COMMAND OF ME ANYTHING YOU WISH...
KO

...MY LITTLE LORD.



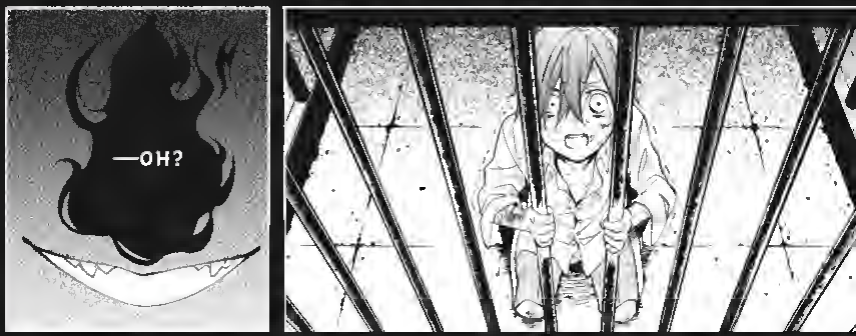
Black Butler

Chapter 62

At midnight : The Butler, Maturing

NO.

NO.



THIS IS THE ONE.

THE FEE FOR CROSSING HAS ALREADY BEEN WELL PAID.
YOU ARE FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO MAKE A COVENANT WITH ME AND HAVE YOUR WISHES GRANTED OR NOT.
YOU HAVE MADE A GREAT SACRIFICE.
I...
I—
GIRI GILENGH
ZAWA GCLAMOUR
EEP ...!?
SOMEONE SHUT HIM UP!
...I WANT POWER ...
...I WANT ...
POWER TO TAKE VENGEANCE UPON THOSE WHO PUT US THROUGH ALL THIS!!

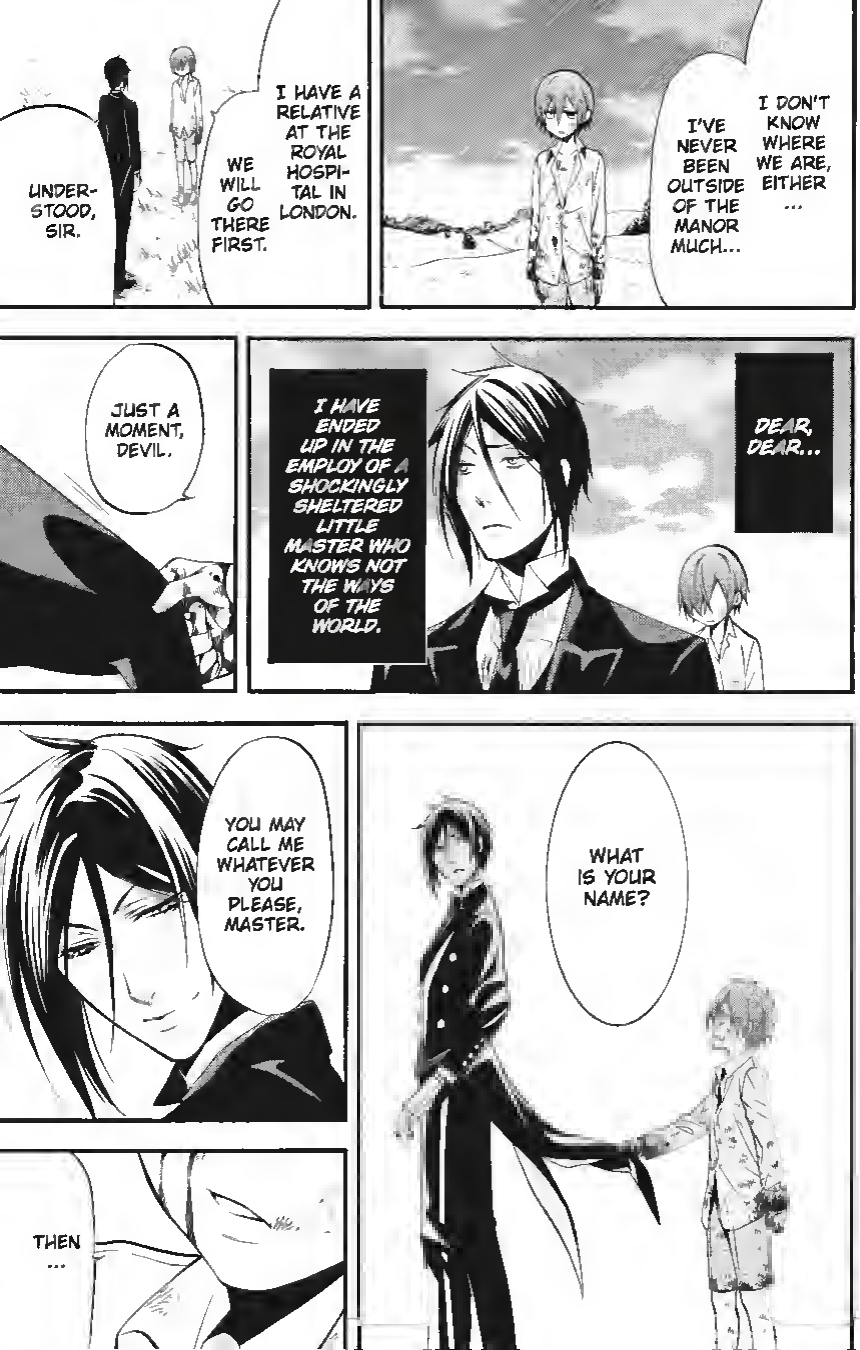
DEVIL!
I'LL MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOU!!
SO YOU WILL CAST OFF THE LIGHT AND CHOOSE THE ROAD TO HELL...
FINE.
THEN LET US CARVE THE MARK OF THE COVE-NANT ONTO OUR BODIES
THE MORE CONSPIC-UOUS ITS LOCATION, THE GREATER THE POWER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WIELD.
NOW WHERE DO—
ANY-WHERE WILL DO!

I WANT MORE POWER THAN ANYONE ELSE!!
WELL, THEN!
YOUR SMALL FRAME BELIES YOUR IMMENSE GREED.
THE MARK SHALL RESIDE ON THAT GREAT BIG EYE OF YOURS, WHICH REFLECTS A HOPELESS WORLD!

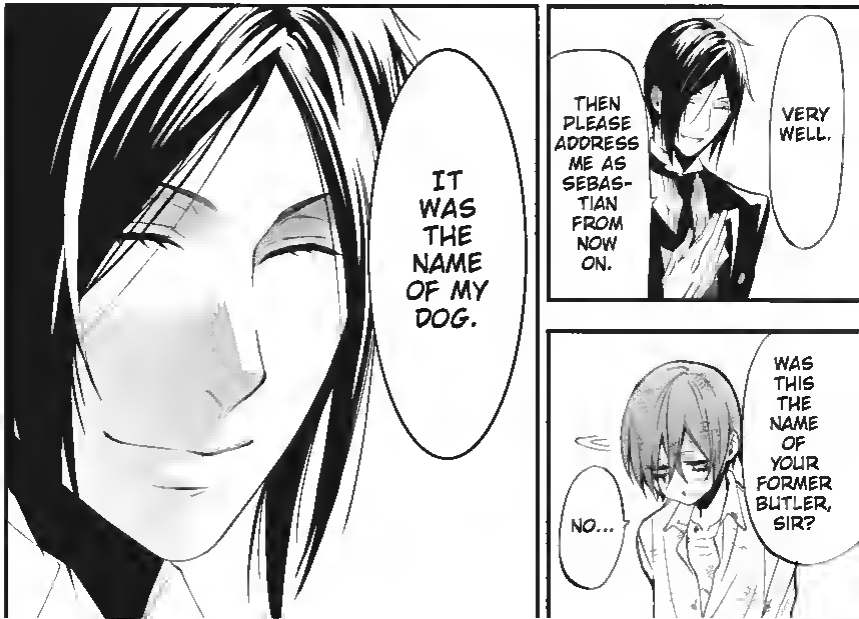
AAAAAA
UWAAAA
GUUU
RUOAR
HE WISHED THREE THINGS OF ME.
TO PROTECT HIM WITHOUT BETRAYAL UNTIL HIS REVENGE CAME TO FRUITION.
TO OBEY HIS COMMANDS WITHOUT QUESTION.
AND TO NEVER TELL LIES.

FOR A BUTLER TO AN EARL TO EXECUTE THESE TASKS SMARTLY WILL BE NO EASY FEAT, I DARESAY.
GOOD
THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO RUIN THE PHANTOM-HIVE HOUSE ARE SOME-WHERE OUT THERE.
AUNT FRANCIS ONCE TOLD ME...
...THAT THE BEST CHANCE TO COUNTERATTACK IS WHEN THE OPPONENT MAKES THE FIRST MOVE.
GYU (CLENCH)
THE PREVI-OUS EARL LOST THE GAME.
THIS TIME... I WON'T LOSE.
AS THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE PHAN-TOMHIVE FAMILY...
...AS CIEL PHANTOM-HIVE... I WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT LOSE!
HEH HEH!

GIRO GIRO
PUI (FWIP)
NO.
IT IS JUST THAT YOU ORDERED ME NEVER TO LIE, BUT YOU YOURSELF ARE VERY MUCH A LIAR.
.....
WHAT IS SO FUNNY?
OH, I SAY. WHAT A PAIN THIS IS.
—HOWEVER, EVEN THE FULL LENGTH OF ONE LIFESPAN OF A CHILD OF MAN IS BUT THE BLINK OF AN EYE TO ME.
I SHALL BE HAPPY ENOUGH TO KILL TIME FOR A SPELL AND THEN EAT MY FILL.
EH!?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.
WELL, MASTER.
LET US RETURN TO YOUR MANOR.

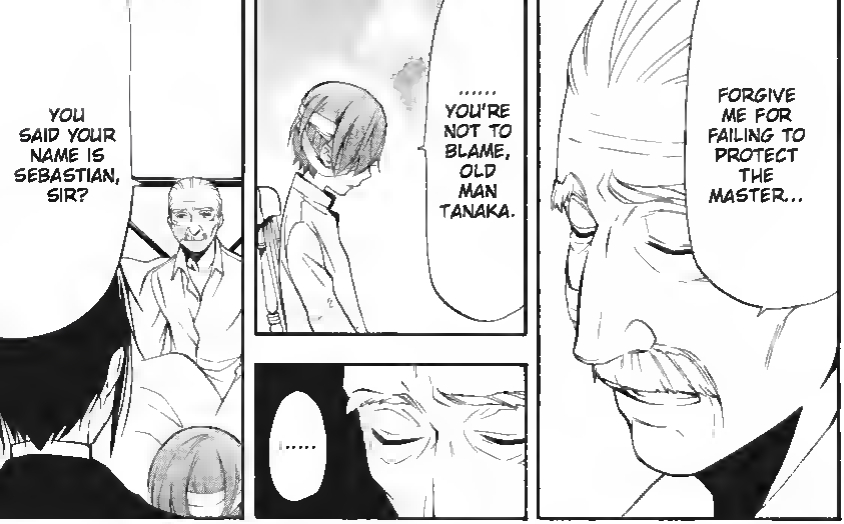

I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE, EITHER ...
I'VE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF THE MANOR MUCH...
I HAVE A RELATIVE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL IN LONDON.
WE WILL GO THERE FIRST.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
DEAR, DEAR...
I HAVE ENDED UP IN THE EMPLOY OF A SHOCKINGLY SHELTERED LITTLE MASTER WHO KNOWS NOT THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.
JUST A MOMENT, DEVIL.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
YOU MAY CALL ME WHATEVER YOU PLEASE, MASTER.
THEN ...

SEBASTIAN.
YOU ARE SEBASTIAN AS OF TODAY.

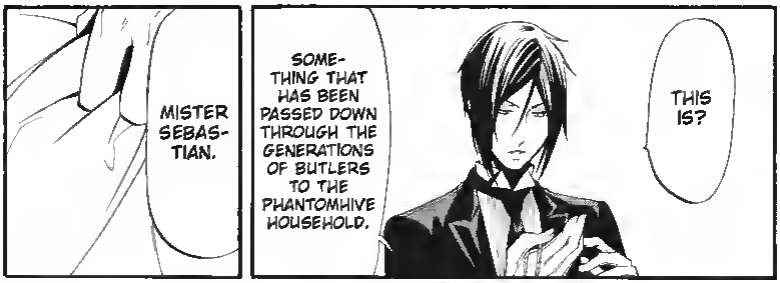

IT WAS THE NAME OF MY DOG.
VERY WELL.
THEN PLEASE ADDRESS ME AS SEBAS-TIAN FROM NOW ON.
WAS THIS THE NAME OF YOUR FORMER BUTLER, SIR?
NO...

I HAVE ENDED UP IN THE EMPLOY OF AN OUTRAGEOUSLY WICKED BRAT.
I RETRACT WHAT I STATED EARLIER.
THE ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL
GASHA GASHA
ZAWA CHURUURU
ZAWA
HEAD, YOU PLEASE SEND FOR AUNTIE AN... RATHER, DOCTOR DALLES—

YOUNG MASTER ...! YOUNG MASTER!!
OLD MAN TANAKA !?
AAH ...!!
AH...
I AM SO VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU ALIVE...!
I AM GLAD...
NO...
—I SEE.
SO YOU DIDN'T CATCH SIGHT OF THE CULPRITS EITHER.


FORGIVE ME FOR FAILING TO PROTECT THE MASTER...
.....
YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME, OLD MAN TANAKA.
.....
YOU SAID YOUR NAME IS SEBASTIAN, SIR?

PLEASE TAKE THIS WITH YOU.


THIS IS?
SOME-THING THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS OF BUTLERS TO THE PHANTOMHIVE HOUSEHOLD.
MISTER SEBAS-TIAN.

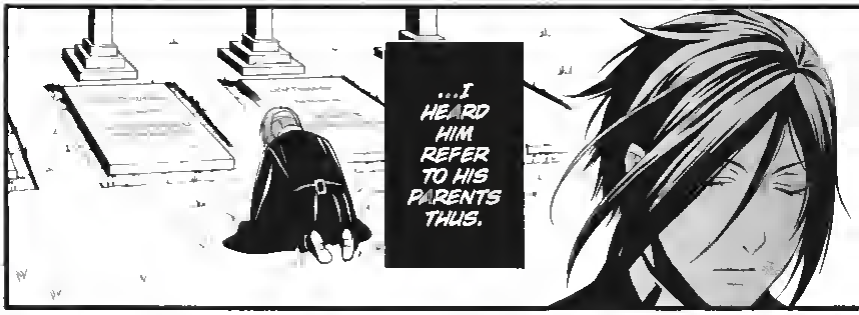
I KNOW NOT WHO YOU ARE, NOR WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT I BEG YOU...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER.
...I SHALL.
AS HIS BUTLER, I SHALL SERVE THE *YOUNG MASTER* TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.
CIEL!!
AAH... YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONE NOW!
.....
I'M SO HAPPY ...! YOU, AT LEAST, ARE SAFE...

ARE YOU REALLY GOING? WHY NOT STAY WITH ME TONI—
NO, I'M GOING.
THANK YOU FOR EVEN SEEING TO A CARRIAGE FOR ME, AUNTIE AN.
CIEL, I GIVE THIS TO YOU.
GYU (HUG)
I WANT TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
... THANK YOU.
EVERYTHING ELSE WAS LOST IN THE FIRE. THIS WAS ALL THAT WAS LEFT.

フラ…
(FURA (STAGGER))
YOUNG MASTER?
THIS... IS QUITE DREADFUL.

Rachel Phantomhive
Ciel P
FATHER...
MOTHER...

THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST AND LAST TIME...


...I HEARD HIM REFER TO HIS PARENTS THUS.

—NOW, THEN.

YOUNG MASTER.
THE SUN WILL SET SOON.
THE NIGHT AIR WILL BE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH.
.....
THERE'S A PLACE NEARBY WHICH IS BOTH A PUB AND AN INN, SO LET'S GO THERE FOR THE NIGHT—
NO.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT.
?

I SWORE TO YOU, DID I NOT? I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU.
THIS CAN'T BE...

AND AN EARL MUST LIVE IN A GRAND CASTLE.
I AM BUTLER TO AN EARL. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I CAN MANAGE SOMETHING OF THIS LEVEL.
H-HOW IS THIS EVEN ...?
COME.
THIS IS YOUR CASTLE FROM THIS DAY FORTH.

WELCOME HOME...
...MASTER.
YO!!!!
HOHHH
HOHHH

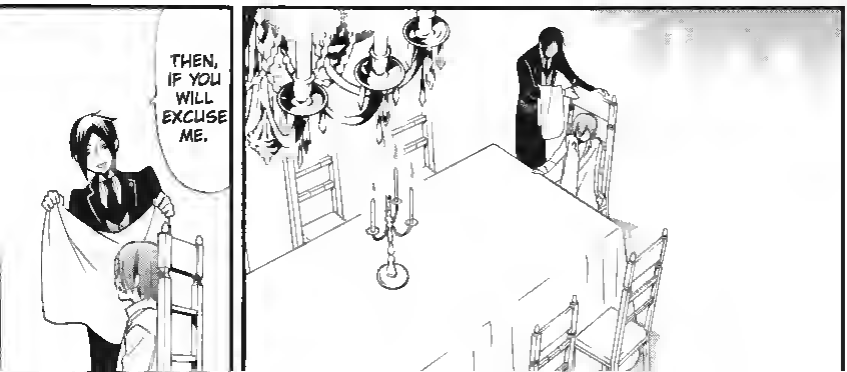
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR. I WILL TAKE MORE CARE NEXT TIME.
SO THIS IS TOO HOT..
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD POUR BOILING HOT WATER ON SOMEONE WITHOUT WARNING !?
AT LEAST CHECK THE TEMPER-ATURE FIRST!!
GOSHI (SCRUB)
NOW IF I MAY, I SHALL BATHE YOU, SIR!
GOSHI
GOSHI
OUCH! OUCH! OUCH!
BASHA (SPLASH)
THAT WILL DO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I'M GETTING OUT NOW!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU ARE STILL MIRED IN FILTH.
I WILL NOT STAND FOR YOU DROPPING DEAD SUDDENLY FROM AN INFECTED WOUND OR SOME-SUCH.

GET OUT !!
BASHA (SPLASH)
MUKAA (IRK)
...!
.....AS YOU WISH.
THAT LITT—
PATAN (SHUT)
GASHAAN (CRAASH)

WHAT IS THE MATTER, SIR!?
はぁ～
HAAA (SIGH)
……
I SIMPLY SLIPPED WHILE TRYING TO GRAB A TOWEL.
YORO (SWAY)
I SAID NO.
PASH! (WHAP)
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY... ALLOW ME TO WASH YOU DOWN.

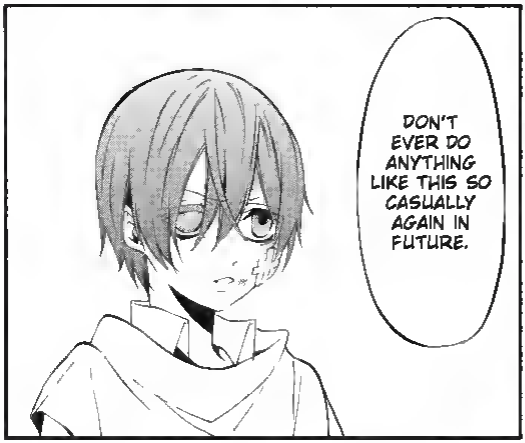
!?
IT WOULD DO TO KEEP YOUR OBSTINACY IN CHECK.
GA (GRAB)
GIRL (SQUEEZE)
HUMANS ARE FRAIL ANIMALS. YOU CAN READILY LOSE YOUR LIFE FROM ONE PUNY GERM FINDING ITS WAY INTO THE TINIEST OF WOUNDS.
AS A CHILD WHO CANNOT EVEN SEE TO HIS OWN INJURIES, PLEASE DO NOT SEE FIT TO WASTE MY TIME.
.....

GRUMBLE (GROOOWL)
HUMANS HUNGER MOST DISGRACEFULLY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
...BE QUIET.


THEN, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.

BASA (FLAP)
DON (BAM)
!?
GATA (CLATTER)
PLEASE EAT YOUR FILL OF WHATEVER YOU FANCY.

YES, SIR?
.....
SEBASTIAN.


DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS SO CASUALLY AGAIN IN FUTURE.

WE HAVE SPINY LOBSTER SAUTÉ AND ROAST TURKEY. STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING AND FAIRY CAKES.
I SHALL SERVE YOU ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

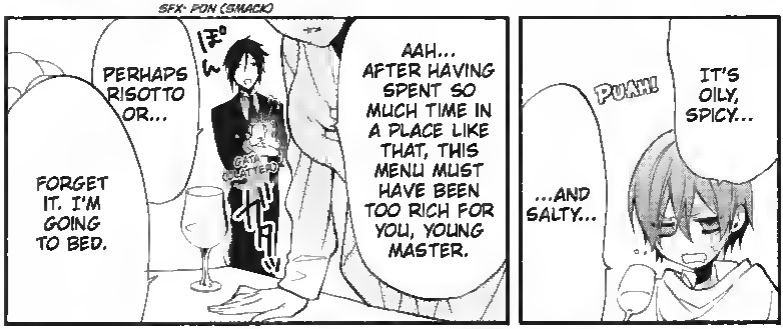
AN ORDINARY BUTLER SIMPLY DOESN'T REBUILD A MANOR HOUSE IN THE SPAN OF ONE NIGHT OR HAVE DINNER PREPARED AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
IF ANYONE ELSE CATCHES SIGHT OF YOU DOING SUCH THINGS, IT WILL AROUSE THEIR SUSPICION.

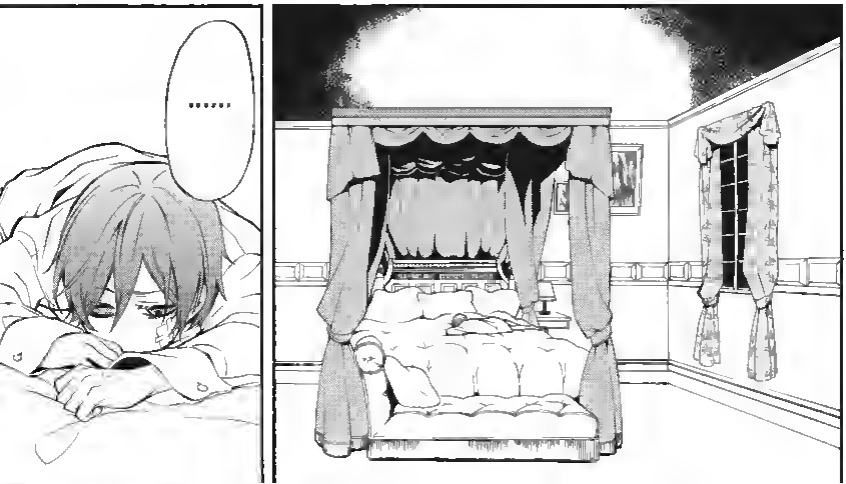
WHY IS THAT?

HOW TROUBLE-SOME.
AVERAGE PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING WITHOUT THE NECESSARY MATERIALS AND TIME.
I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO DO IT ALL TO THE LETTER, BUT AT LEAST PRETEND YOU ARE.
THEN I SHOULD DO EVERYTHING STEP-BY-STEP AS MERE HUMANS DO?

UNDER-STOOD, SIR.
KOTO (TOK)
YOU ARE MY BUTLER, AREN'T YOU?
DO AS I SAY.
PAKU (CHOMP)

OH? IS IT NOT TO YOUR TASTE?
!!!
GOKU (GULP) GOKU
ゴクゴーン
UGH!!
オエッ
OE (URP)
...!


SFX: PON (SMACK)
PERHAPS RISOTTO OR...
FORGET IT. I'M GOING TO BED.
AAH... AFTER HAVING SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN A PLACE LIKE THAT, THIS MENU MUST HAVE BEEN TOO RICH FOR YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
IT'S OILY, SPICY...
PUAH!
...AND SALTY...


.....

KON KNOCK KON
YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING AT LEAST...
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU SOME WARM MILK.
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T WANT IT.
I'M SURE IT TASTES AWFUL ANYWAY.
I AM AWARE THERE ARE MANY OBLIGATIONS YOU MUST SEE TO FROM TOMORROW ON IN ORDER TO BECOME A SPLENDID FAMILY HEAD WHO WILL RESTORE THE EARLDOM.

WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME?
I CANNOT SPEAK TO ITS TASTE.
KOPOPO (POUR)
I HAVE ONLY HEATED UP THE MILK. I DID NOT ADD ANYTHING TO IT.
...IS THERE HONEY IN IT?
OLD MAN TANAKA USED TO SCOLD ME, SAYING I'D GET CAVITIES IF I HAD HONEY BEFORE BEDTIME.
PLEASE, ADD HOWEVER MUCH YOU WANT.

THEN I SHALL FOLLOW SUIT FROM TOMORROW ON.
FUU...
—MMM...

THE WARM MILK... WAS GOOD.
SEBAS-TIAN.
キュッ
KYU (CLENCH)
AND ONE MORE THING ...
I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT.

I DON'T MUCH CARE TO LIVE ON WARM MILK FOR EVERY MEAL LIKE A PUPPY.
TCH...
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST TASTES AS FOUL AS WHAT I HAD EARLIER THIS EVENING.

To be continued in Black Butler 13

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

7

SuKe

Saito Torino

Yu Kamiya

Tsuki Sorano

Nora

*

Takeshi Kuma

*

Yana Toboso

SpecialThanks

Sakuya

for You!

Yana Toboso

Author's note

"I want to live like a tuna, which dies when it stops swimming." I want to tell the me, who made a comment like that in my debut manga, "Never stop, otherwise you really will die." Taking the first step after you've stopped and rested is a hundred times tougher than taking the very first step. The more you move forward, the more frightening it becomes to stand still. But I think this is like a runner's high, when I'm simply having fun running and don't want to stop. And so here's Volume 13, where I'm feeling like I'm leaning forward.

DOWNSTAIRS WITH BLACK BUTLER VII
YANA TOBOSO
LONG TIME NO SEEEE!
THANKS EVER SO MUCH FOR BUYING VOLUME 13!
TOBOSO HERE!
A MUSICAL
LOTS OF STUFF HAPPENED IN THOSE TWO YEARS.
EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS LIKE A DREAM...
AWW THEY'RE ALL GREAAAT!
SECOND SEASON OF THE ANIME
FOOD COLLABORATIONS IN NAMJATOWN
SO THIS IS WHAT I WROTE TWO YEARS AGO..
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THE LAST TIME I DREW "DOWNSTAIRS" WAS BACK IN VOLUME 7. TWO YEARS FLEW BY BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...AND BLACK BUTLER CELEBRATED ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.
AND SO I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO WRITE ABOUT.
DARK AURA
YOU'RE THE VERY PICTURE OF BURNOUT SYNDROME!
I DON'T GO OUT MUCH..
WHAT FILLS MY HEART NOW IS SIMPLY GRATITUDE TO THE STAFF INVOLVED IN ALL THE WORKS AND THE VIEWERS...
THERE'RE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO WRITE ABOUT, WORDS FAIL TO DESCRIBE MY FEELINGS.
DVD

I'M STILL DRAWING THE MAIN CHARACTER'S FACE BY TRIAL AND ERROR, PEOPLE!!!
BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO DO THAT TOO! DEATH-FINITELY!!!
-KUWA (YELL)
ONCE IN A WHILE I DO GET REQUESTS LIKE "PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO DRAW HANDSOME MEN"...
NNN.
TO BE HONEST, THIS MANGA DOESN'T RECEIVE MANY QUESTIONS.
A LOT OF CHARACTERS AREN'T HUMAN, SO THEY DON'T HAVE BIRTHDAYS THERE AREN'T ANY COMPLICATED FANTASY SETTINGS EITHER
OTHER MANGAKA OFTEN DO THAT
CAN'T YOU THINK OF SOMETHING? LIKE ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS IN YOUR FAN LETTERS.
YOUR SERIES JUST HAD ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SO WHY DON'T YOU LOOK BACK ON EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE YOUR DEBUT?
FU HEH HEH.
SEEERIOUSLY! I'M SURPRISED I MADE IT AS A MANGAKA MYSELF.
SO YOU'VE GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE PEOPLE ASK YOU THAT, HUH?
HA HA HA!
I'VE ALSO GOTTEN "HOW CAN I BECOME A MANGAKA?"
STUFF LIKE THAT.
HOWEVER, MY MANGA THANKFULLY CAUGHT THE EYES OF MISTER EDITOR K, AND HE BECAME MY EDITOR!
I RECEIVED THE ENCOURAGEMENT PRIZE.
THE CHARACTERS ARE SO-SO, BUT YOUR BACK GROUNDS AND STORY SUCK!!
WHAT HE TOLD ME RIGHT AFTER WE MET
EH..!? OKAY, I'M SORR...
THE WORK SUBMITTED:
HELL-O
I DON'T HAVE THE MANUSCRIPT ON HAND, SO I ONLY REMEMBER IT REAL VAGUELY
THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE GRIM REAPER DISPATCH— A MANGA FEATURING A PAIR OF GRIM REAPER BUDDIES (WEARING MILITARY UNIFORMS FOR SOME REASON -SMILE-)
2003 OR SO
I'D NEVER DRAWN AN ORIGINAL MANGA UNTIL I SENT IN MY WORK TO THE SQUARE ENIX MANGA CONTEST.
LET'S SEE...
MY HIGH SCHOOL WAS AN ORDINARY SCHOOL.
I NEVER STUDIED DRAWING EXCLUSIVELY OR WENT TO A PRO MANGA SCHOOL.

WHEN I WAS DRAWING THAT ONE-SHOT, MY EDITOR CALLED ME OUT OF THE BLUE.
9TH
A STORY WHERE NINE PRINCES FIGHT A BATTLE ROYALE TO OBTAIN THE KING'S THRONE.
YES?
WE'VE GOT A PROB-LEM!
AROUND SEPTEMBER 2004
BEGINNING OF 2004
...AND I FINALLY GOT TO DRAW A MANGA FOR A NEWCOMERS' ONE-SHOT PUBLICATION PROJECT!
I ONLY HAVE FAINT MEMORIES OF THIS AS WELL.
KOHAKU
MY EDITOR TRAINED ME HARD, AND MY SECOND MANGA WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE SQUARE ENIX MANGA CONTEST...
DISGUISE
THE STORY'S ENTERED
HERE
LET ME EXPLAIN!
A TWO-PAGE SPREAD IN A MANUSCRIPT
CUT-OFF MARGINS
MAGAZINES
EVERYONE WHO DRAWS MANGA KNOWS THIS. IT'S BASIC COMMON SENSE!!
THE GUTTER MARGINS ARE THE AREAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MANUSCRIPT SPREADS THAT ARE PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINES. WHEN THE MAGAZINES ARE BOUND, ANYTHING DRAWN OR WRITTEN THERE WON'T BE VISIBLE! SO WHATEVER'S THERE IS USELESS!!
I WAS GOING TO PUBLISH YOUR ACCEPTED PIECE AS A ONE-SHOT IF THERE WAS SPACE IN THE MAGAZINE...
...BUT YOU'VE WRITTEN DIALOGUE IN THE GUTTER MARGINS !!!
WHEN I LOOKED AT YOUR FAXED ROUGHS, THE CROP MARKS WERE INVISIBLE, SO I COULDN'T TELL!!!
WHAT'S A GUTTER MARGIN?
EH...!?
EDITOR
AND IT'S NOT JUST ON ONE OR TWO PAGES! WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING
YOU DID IT ON ALMOST EVERY PAGE!!
EH? U-UM...

DESPITE WHAT HAPPENED, I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO FINISH DRAWING "9TH" MY DEBUT WORK.
FORTY-EIGHT PAGES...
I HAD TO REDRAW LOTS OF "9TH" TOO 'COS I'D DRAWN IN THE GUTTER
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT GUTTER MARGINS WERE, SO I COULDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT I DID WRONG AND WAS FLUSTERED.
ORO
ORO OMAIGO
THIS IS REALLY BASIC!!!
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST READ A BOOK LIKE "HOW TO DRAW MANGA"!!!
I-I'M SORRY...
...BLACK BUTLER, MY FIRST LONG SERIES BEGAN.
SEPTEMBER 2006
A CHAOTIC BUTLER MANGA
AROUND OCTOBER 2005
A SCHOOL BATTLE STORY FEATURING MISDEMEANOR ENTANGLEMENT AND VICTORY BETWEEN A HUMAN WHO TRANSFERRED TO A MILITARY ACADEMY FOR VAMPIRES AND THE VAMPIRES THERE.
KEI
ALDRED
...AND AFTER I DREW MY ONE-SHOT SERIES RUST-BLASTER...
AFTER THAT, MISTER EDITOR K AND I DEVOTED OURSELVES TO MANGA...
READ MORE MANGA YOUR THUMBNAILS REALLY SUCK!!!
THUMBNAILS
READ MORE BOOKS TOO!!
R-RIGHT...
THEN IT BECAME A DRAMA CD, AN ANIME (TWICE!), AND A MUSICAL. AND IN 2011...
I FEEL BLACK BUTLER IS REALLY A MANGA THE READERS HAVE SUPPORTED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
CONGRATULATIONS. THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG ONE.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT HANDSHAKE
BLACK BUTLER WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE A SHORT SERIES, BUT THANKS TO EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, IT BECAME A LONG-RUNNING ONE.

YOU GUYYYS —!!!
BAAN (BANG)
バーン!
TOBOSO SLAMMED INTO AN AMAZING FACT!!!
...THE SERIES ENTERED ITS FIFTH YEAR... I GOT USED TO THE PACE OF DRAWING IT AND WAS FINALLY ABLE TO PROUDLY CALL MYSELF A MANGAKA... AND THEN!
PISHI (STEADY)
ピシッ
CORRECT PLACE TO INSERT THE NIB
GURA
グラ
GURA (WOBBLE)
WRONG PLACE TO INSERT THE NIB
KA (YELL)
カッ
DID YOU KNOW...
...YOU'RE NOT S'POSED TO STICK THE NIB IN THE MIDDLE OF DIP PENS!!?
*HAS BEEN USING DIP PENS FOR ROUGHLY TEN YEARS
MOSTLY G PENS
YES.

AND I FOUND OUT A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT MANUSCRIPT PAPER GETS DAMP, SO NOW I TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY MANUSCRIPTS.
SIGH
HASN'T THE PAPER GOTTEN DAMP?
FOR SOME REASON, THE INK'S RUNNING
EH? IT GETS DAMP!?
IF THERE'S A SLOT, ISN'T THAT WHERE YOU'D NORMALLY STICK IT !!!?
EH?
WELL, YEAH. 'COS THERE'S A SLOT IN THE MIDDLE!!
YANA-SAN, WERE YOU INSERTING THE NIB INTO THE MIDDLE ALL THIS TIME!!?
WASN'T THE NIB REALLY UNSTABLE !!?
YEAH, I'VE BEEN DRAWING THESE LAST TEN YEARS THINKING HOW UNSTABLE IT WAS.
SEE?
ARE YOU STUPID!?
*WHILE DRAWING CHAPTER 58
CHIEF H
I READ THEM AFTER YOU YELLED AT ME!!!
BUT NONE OF THE BOOKS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
HOW TO USE YOUR PEN NIBS IS MORE BASIC THAN GUTTER MARGINS!!
IT'S NOT WRITTEN ANYWHERE 'COS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM!!!
HEY, THE STORY ABOUT THE PEN NIB AND ENTERING THE CONTEST SHOULDN'T BE IN THAT ORDER!
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I'M EMBARRASSED.
THAT'S ABOUT IT...
HEH HEH.
SO IF YOU KEEP DRAWING SERIOUSLY, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BECOME A MANGAKA. TO EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A MANGAKA, DO YOUR BEST!!
SEE YA!!
WELL, THAT'S ME, TOBOSO, FOR YOU. BUT SOMEHOW I'M MANAGING TO GET BY AS A MANGAKA.

Translation Notes

Page 3
Knifehand
The Japanese word used here is *tegatana*, or "knifehand strike," which is also known to many as a "karate chop." In this martial arts move, the outside edge of the hand, opposite the thumb, and the wrist are used to do physical damage to a target.

Page 13
Mourning period
Formal mourning was a complex social tradition for the upper classes in Victorian England. The closer one was to the deceased, the longer one was expected to be in mourning, especially if one was a woman. Being in mourning involved dressing in dark, somber clothing (often called "weeds") and all but retiring from society until the appropriate length of time had passed. Widows were expected to mourn for two years at the least, thereafter only gradually reintroducing color back into their wardrobes and themselves back into society. Coming out of mourning too quickly could be disastrous to one's reputation in polite society. Much of this tradition derived from Queen Victoria's lengthy mourning period after the passing of Prince Albert; after his death, she wore black for the rest of her life.

Page 53
Non
French for "no."

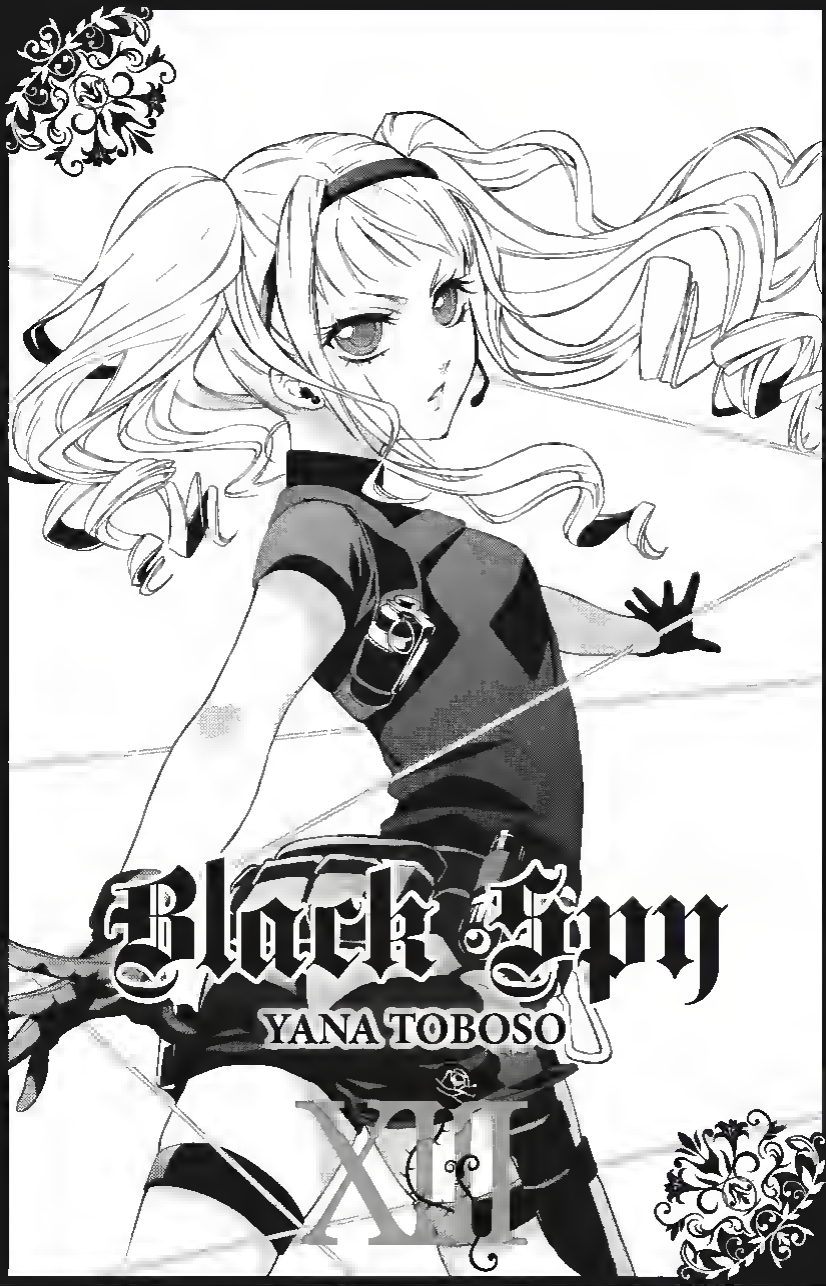
Page 53
Kaiser
A German title for "emperor" most commonly associated with the ruler of Germany between the years 1871 to 1918. The Holy Roman Emperors (962-1806) also used this title.

Page 53
Cock robin
This term comes most famously from the old English nursery rhyme, "Who Killed Cock Robin?", the subject of which is the murder of a robin and all the potential suspects who may have committed the crime.

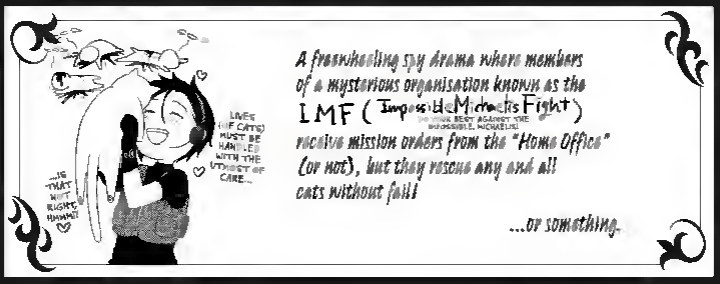
Page 64
Undertaker's sticks
These "sticks" are called *sotoba*. *Sotoba* is the transliteration of the Sanskrit *stupa* (a tower that contains Buddha's remains), but in Japan, they usually refer to long, tower-shaped wooden tablets or markers that are erected beside graves. Sanskrit characters, posthumous Buddhist names, and other characters are written on them as part of a Buddhist ceremony for the soul of the departed. The kanji written on Undertaker's *sotoba*—南無大師遍照金剛—means "Faith in Kouhou Daishi Kuukai." Kuukai is the founder of the Shingon sect of Buddhism.

Page 161
Fairy cake
A small cake for one person resembling a cupcake.

Page 171
Namjatown
Namjatown is an indoor theme park in Ikebukuro in Tokyo. They often have food collaborations featuring various anime and manga properties, such as "(X character)'s Parfait."


Black Spy
YANA TOBOSO
XII

THIS TAPE WILL AUTOMATICALLY SELF-DESTRUCT.
GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTS.
DIRECTOR
TEA


LIVES (IF CATS) MUST BE HANDLED WITH THE UTMOST OF CARE...
...IS THAT WHAT RIGHTS MEANS?
A freewheeling spy drama where members of a mysterious organisation known as the LMF (Impossible Missions Fight)
THE FINAL BEST AGAINST THE IMPOSSIBLE, MICHAEL!!
receive mission orders from the "Home Office" (or not), but they rescue any and all cats without fail!
...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 13

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

KUROSHITSUJI Vol. 13 ©2011 Yana Toboso/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2011 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2013 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press eBook Edition: April 2014

eBook ISBN: 978-0-316-23711-6

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23818-2